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OPINION METER
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INSIDE

NATION

A former adviser to John Edwards recounts how his now-deceased wife confronted him. ➤ PAGE 20

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LIFE & STYLE

The judges on "American Idol" definitely love Joshua Ledet.

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OPEN LETTER TO THE CNMI

23 doctors will leave if ICS contract is rejected

Editor's Note: This is an open letter emailed to the Saipan Tribune *last night by Dr. Jeremy Richard and Dr. Dan Lamar of the Commonwealth Health Center, speaking for the medical staff of CHC.*

Dear community of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian: On Thursday afternoon at 3pm, the vast majority of the Commonwealth Health Center's medical providers gathered together to express concern about the fate of the International Consulting Services contract.

We are concerned about the current state of CHC, that as a public corporation we lack the ability to function independently from the government and make critical decisions that allow us to provide quality health care. We lack a streamlined billing and collection system, and an open and transparent accountability system—both things that ICS is offering to help us create. We have been delayed in our ability to implement these systems for the past several months, and we are now in a critical state where, without the immediate implementation of such systems, we have no confidence in the ability of the hospital to continue to operate, self-sustainably, beyond the next 30-60 days.

RELATED NEWS
➤ CHC pleads for $10M subsidy. PAGE 2

CHC has been tasked with operating the hospital and providing medical services in a self-sustaining manner, with limited government support, but almost every attempt we have made to fulfill this mandate has been delayed or blocked. This interference has created the current instability at CHC, which has resulted in an unreasonably difficult and stressful work environment, and the providers at CHC cannot continue to provide care under these conditions. Unless conditions change, it will rapidly become unsafe to provide care.

At this point, the medical staff at CHC feel there are no other options. If the ICS contract is rejected by members of the CNMI government, a critical number of providers—23 out of a total of 26 CHC providers—will resign in the next 30 to 60 days. If such a large number of providers resign, CHC will undoubtedly lose Medicaid and Medicare funding, which are key to the future sustainability of this hospital. To regain Medicaid and Medicare funding, CHC would need to be completely renovated and could cost upwards of $90 million-$100 million to reopen.

We are pleading with the government of the CNMI to allow us to continue to provide care to the community of CNMI. The consequences of rejecting this contract between CHC and ICS are imminent and catastrophic.

Jeremy Richards, MD
Director of Medical Affairs

Dan Lamar, MD
Director of Public Health Services

Possible double-dippers at CHC

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund has discovered that several employees of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. may "potentially be double-dipping" and administrator Richard Villagomez said the Fund is already investigating the matter.

Villagomez said in Tuesday's board meeting that the Fund has already written a letter to the corporation asking it to provide information about these employees.

See CHC on Page 4

Victoria Camacho is AG's Cup winner

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Mount Carmel School junior Victoria Camacho and her coach and dad Galvin Deleon Guerrero pose beside the perpetual trophy after Camacho was named champion in the 28th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition at the Guma Hustisia yesterday.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

» Mount Carmel wins 10 in a row; 14 wins in 28 years

Mount Carmel School junior Victoria Camacho emerged champion in the 28th Annual Attorney General's Cup Speech Competition held yesterday at the Guma Hustisia, making it the 10th consecutive victory and a total of 14 wins for the only private Catholic school on island.

Camacho is the daughter of Galvin and Velma Deleon Guerrero. Her father Galvin, who has been coaching mock trial and AG's Cup participants

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2,038 foreign workers now with CW status. PAGE 3
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Local

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FY 2013 BUDGET HEARINGS

CHC pleads for $10M subsidy

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta told the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday that CHC's proposed budget for fiscal year 2013 is over $40 million, $10 million of which will be subsidy from the government so that CHC will be able to treat indigent patients.

"We appeal to you to appropriate $10 million," Babauta told the House committee with oversight on government budget.

The rest, some $30 million, will come from CHC's own revenue, mostly from hospital service fees.

Babauta and CHC chief financial officer Alvaro Santos said they are projecting that average collection will be $2.8 million a month, but cautioned that this is a fluid figure.

CHC's proposed budget, based on CHC's own records shared with lawmakers yesterday, is $40,293,859 from Oct. 1, 2012, to Sept. 30, 2013.

However, some lawmakers questioned why CHC is asking for $10 million when the difference is less than $7 million. CHC officials said the requested figure allows for some wiggle room if there's shortfall in collections.

Rep. Ray Basa (Cov-Saipan), Ways and Means chair, said the panel is taking CHC's request under advisement. The governor's fiscal year 2013 budget is capped at $102 million.

Fitial's proposed 2013 budget only gives $2.5 million subsidy to CHC, which will also be used as state share for Medicaid for a total of $5 million. That's the same amount of "seed" money that the administration gave CHC for 2012.

From 600-plus to only 436 employees

Of the over $40 million projected budget, CHC appropriates more than $19 million for "total personnel costs."

The number of positions or employees funded under this 2013 budget is 436, down from the 600-plus positions this fiscal year.

Babauta said the difference of some 200 will be a combination of reduction-in-force, resignations, and vacant fulltime employee positions that will be removed and not replaced.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian) and Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) separately asked about the number of Rota and Tinian Health Center employees that may be covered by the RIF, and Babauta said: 12 at RHC and 12 at THC.

The 24 from Rota and Tinian will be in addition to the "15 to 17" that will be let go at the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan, for a total of 39 to 41 within the month.

CHC had already laid off 19 at the Community Guidance Center and the Dental Clinic, officials said.

Corporation officials also told lawmakers that 30 registered nurses and four doctors will be leaving soon.

Babauta said they will be replacing nurses and doctors because of the critical nature of their jobs. He said they are also looking at nursing graduates from the Northern Marianas College if and when they pass the NCLEX.

Babauta and Alvaro Santos said the $10 million subsidy is separate from the additional $7 million revolving line of credit with the Marianas Public Land Trust. CHC has already drawn down $3 million of the total $10 million line of credit. There is also a separate $1.58 million loan. That additional $7 million line of credit is authorized in a bill that is now with the governor.

Santos said that if the government approves the $10 million subsidy for 2013, CHC may not even have to draw down from the maximum additional $7 million line of credit so that the corporation won't have to pay for interest and the principal amount.

2,038 foreign workers now with CW status

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Between Oct. 7 and May 1, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services approved 1,309 I-129CW or Commonwealth-only worker petitions consisting of 2,038 beneficiaries.

The 2,038 workers now with CW status is 17 percent of the 11,703 beneficiaries sponsored on I-129CW petitions filed within a seven-month period.

Marie Thérèse Sebrechts, USCIS regional media manager, said yesterday that through Tuesday, May 1, the agency had data entered 5,665 I-129CW petitions. The petitions were filed by approximately 1,779 different employers.

Sebrechts said a total of 11,703 CW1 workers are sponsored on these petitions.

"A total of 1,309 petitions were approved consisting of 2,038 beneficiaries," she said.

Sebrechts also said a total of 26 petitions were denied, consisting of 29 beneficiaries.

The 26 denials include 14 withdrawals of petitions by the employers and 12 denials for cause.

"The denials 'for cause' were due to the absence of documentation to support a finding that: (a) the petitioner (employer) meets one or more of the eligibility requirements as listed in the regulations or (b) the beneficiary (worker) meets the requirements as an 'eligible alien,' specifically that the beneficiary is lawfully present in the CNMI," Sebrechts said.

For weeks and months, CNMI employers and foreign workers have been asking why it has taken this long to process CW petitions. USCIS said the processing is expected to speed up in the coming weeks.

USCIS had a self-imposed deadline of Jan. 31, 2012, to adjudicate CW petitions, but this turned out to be an ambitious deadline.

Mirano allegedly admits to 'ice' use while out on bail

Earl Eric Cruz Mirano, a 32-year-old man arrested Tuesday on charges of using a stolen credit card, allegedly admitted to a U.S. Probation Officer that he used methamphetamine or "ice" while out on bail in a federal criminal case.

U.S. Probation Officer Gregory F. Arriola notified the U.S. District Court yesterday about Mirano's violation of his pretrial release conditions.

Arriola stated in his report that, on Oct. 16, 2012, Mirano reported to the U.S. Probation Office and submitted to a substance abuse test. Arriola said that Mirano admitted in writing to using methamphetamine or "ice" on April 13, 2012.

The probation officer said that Mirano was admonished about his drug use and advised that further use could result in court sanctions.

Arriola said Mirano was then referred for substance abuse treatment.

Mirano, together with Mohammad Jahangir Miah, and Cecilia Blas, are charged with conspiracy to commit bank fraud.

Mirano was arraigned on April 12. He pleaded not guilty and was granted pretrial release with conditions. His jury trial will be on June 11, 2012.

On Tuesday, police arrested Mirano on charges of misuse of a credit card and theft by deception. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Sex trafficking ring busted

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Two men allegedly conspired to recruit women from China on empty promises of jobs at a hotel on Saipan and then forced them to engage in commercial sex once they got here.

Wei Lin and Yanchun Li were indicted on a charge of conspiracy to commit sex trafficking and to benefit financially from a sex trafficking venture; three counts of sex trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion; and one count of financially benefiting from a sex trafficking venture.

The indictment was filed in the U.S. District Court on Monday. District court designated judge David A. Wiseman unsealed the case yesterday afternoon.

Wiseman imposed no bail for Lin, who was taken to court yesterday after being arrested. It was not clear yet as of yesterday if Li has already been arrested.

According to the indictment, the two brought the women to the Rosen Music Studio, a karaoke bar in Chalan Laulau, and forced them to provide sexual services to customers for a fee. Most, if not all, of the commercial sexual acts were performed, however, outside the karaoke bar, the indictment states. Lin allegedly provided Rosen Music Studio with women in exchange for a portion of the proceeds.

Sex acts performed by these women generally took place in an apartment procured by Lin in the Hong Building in As Terlaje.

Lin paid Li to, among other things, transport the women back and forth from the Rosen Music Studio to the Hong Apartment, and in some cases, to and from hotels. Li also provided the women with condoms and received money directly from customers on occasion.

Three Chinese women traveled to the CNMI in August and September 2010 after allegedly being promised jobs at a new hotel that Lin was opening on Saipan.

The suspects promised the three women work as waitresses or housekeepers; that their salary would be over $1,000 per month; and that they would get work visas.

The suspects allegedly collected from each of the three women over $4,000; took their passports; and told them they would likely be killed by criminals if they go outside.

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Bill changing CHC board from 'advisory' to 'governing' heads to Fitial

» CEO tells lawmakers: I will ask governor to veto it

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

By a vote of 17-2, the House of Representatives passed yesterday afternoon a Senate bill that would change the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.'s "advisory" board to a "governing" one, but CHC chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta told lawmakers that he will ask Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to veto the measure.

Senate Bill 17-80 now goes to the governor for action.

"I adamantly oppose that. I will ask the governor to veto that legislation. That's for the record," Babauta told members of the House Ways and Means Committee during a budget hearing on CHC's fiscal year 2013 budget yesterday.

The House had to pass SB 17-80 as part of a compromise with the Senate that paved the way for the passage of another bill—one that authorizes the Marianas Public Land Trust to provide up to $11.58 million revolving line of credit/loan to CHC. That measure, HB 17-278, is now with the governor after the Senate passed it on Tuesday on Rota.

Of the 19 House members present during yesterday's session, Reps. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan) voted "no" to SB 17-80. Rep. Fred Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) was absent.

Tenorio said he didn't even like the law that turned the government hospital into a corporation but he didn't have anything to do with it because it was passed during the previous Legislature. He said turning the CHC board into a "governing" one instead of an "advisory" would just make things "worse."

"It's going to get worse. At least with the current system, one person makes the decision, the CEO. With a governing board, the CEO would just follow what the governing board wants. Babauta is the most experienced when it comes to managing a health corporation. At present, leave it [board] as it is," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune.*

The former governor and speaker said he will soon introduce a bill that would repeal Public Law 16-51, which turned the Department of Public Health into a corporation, and bring it back to the government.

Fund's investments at $231.2M as of April 15

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund's investment portfolio had a market value of $231.2 million as of April 15, based on an unaudited financial report dated April 26. This is a 6-percent drop to the $246.37 million posted in March 31.

"The continuous decline in the carrying value of investment was attributed mostly to the total amount withdrawn from the investment to cover shortfalls in pension payouts," acting comptroller Pablito J. Amog said in his report to the board.

The Fund's operating cash balance was at $3.55 million as of March 31. Of this amount, $1.5 million is a reserved fund for operation while $184,133 is a reserved fund for the payment of annual retirees' bonus.

On a positive note, total contributions revenue for March increased to $2.685 million, in contrast to February's collection of $1.202 million.

"The remarkable improvement in contribution revenue collection for March 2012 was due to the continuous remittances of employer contributions by the CNMI government and autonomous agencies," the report stated, also noting an improvement in the central government's remittance of other obligations, including appropriation for hotel/container tax.

Unpaid employer contributions, however, total $227.926 million as of March 31. Of this amount, $182.724 million is owed by the government while $45.652 million is owed by autonomous agencies.

"These agencies incurred this additional liability for not implementing the actuarially determined rate of 60.8686 percent in the remittance of their employer contribution," according to the report.

Among autonomous agencies, the Public School System owes the largest amount, estimated at $28,680,538 as of March 31. The report also noted that PSS, which pays a 30-percent rate, has not remitted its employee and employer contribution for 11 pay periods in fiscal year 2012.

A total of $2,275,516 was also refunded to departing government employees as of March 31, and this amount equates to 40 percent of the total budgeted amount for fiscal year 2012, which is $5.7 million.

The pension agency also realized savings at 8 percent, which equates to $566,000 as total expenditure for March was at $6.797 million as against its budget of $7.37 million.

UOG unveils literary journal 'Storyboard '

The University of Guam's Division of English and Applied Linguistics will unveil the twelfth issue of its literary journal, *Storyboard* today, May 4, from 6:30pm to 8pm, at Tu Re Café in East Hagåtña. The journal features a collection of poetry, prose, graphic art and photography that explore the theme, "Crossings."

» Writers and artists from across the Pacific featured

"What's incredible about *Storyboard 12* is that it features not just local writers and artists, but also writers and artists from across Micronesia and the greater Oceania, and illustrates the many ways we are all connected. It also features work from writers living in the diaspora, which I think is very appropriate considering the theme of 'crossings,'" said *Storyboard 12* editor Victoria-Lola Leon Guerrero.

"The power of this issue's theme is that it was open to many interpretations. The writing and art it generated really highlights the many ways we all cross waters, borders, languages, cultures, beliefs and so many other things on a daily basis."

The writers and artists featured in *Storyboard 12* will be present at the unveiling to read and display their work. Copies of the current and past issues of *Storyboard* will be available for sale. ***(PR)***

CHC

From Page 1

Except for one employee who has been re-employed at the Saipan Mayor's Office, the rest of the possible double-dippers work at the corporation, said Villagomez.

Double-dipping happens when a retiree returns to government service and draws both a salary and a pension.

"There's information that we need to verify first so we request from any agency the information that we need, including payroll records," said Villagomez.

He noted that the Fund allows only a few positions or appointments for retirees who want to be re-employed.

Villagomez also pointed out that the employee in question is given due notice and "some time" to comply with the request. "Eventually, we do stop the pension if we don't receive the information."

When board vice chair Adelina Roberto asked about the time frame given to these affected retirees, legal counsel Christopher Timmons reminded the board that this particular case is "still early in the process" and the Fund is "still gathering the information so an adverse decision hasn't been made yet."

"We have to go through the process and gather the information and not just jump to conclusion," added Timmons.

According to Timmons, the Fund has 12 factors that define a statutory employee and the employees in question will have to be evaluated against those factors and enough information must be gathered to prove that they are actually employees before taking any action.

"There have been, in the past, decisions that were made without going through that process and the Fund lost on the appeal because of that so we have to be very careful to gather all the information to prove it up so that Mr. Villagomez's decision will stand," warned Timmons.

It was also noted during the board meeting that the allowable time for double-dipping "depends" and can be permitted up to two years as stipulated by law.

"All these people are high-salaried people," lamented Roberto, to which Villagomez said, "As soon as we learned about this, we contacted them right away."

The administrator also said that the corporation should have gone through a process that "obviously didn't happen."

"I think we need to end this thing right now because it's a loss for the Fund. Even one month is too long, with the financial condition we're in," Roberto emphasized.

Although Timmons said the action will be against the employee who has been verified as a double-dipper, Villagomez argued that the employer is also "equally responsible."

Timmons disclosed that they've already filed an Open Government Act request with the corporation, which has 10 days to respond.

According to Timmons, suspending the questioned employee's pension "would violate their due process" and doing so will leave the Fund "without recouping the money."

Timmons said many of these retirees try "to skirt" the process by entering into "independent contracts" with government agencies.

"Then we have to prove the factors that they are, in fact, an employee," he said.

Villagomez added, "It's a constant battle."

Officials at the corporation did not respond to *Saipan Tribune's* inquiries about the matter.

VICTORIA

From Page 1

for years, also served as her coach.

Camacho bested eight other contenders in the annual competition, which discussed the issue of what should be the composition of the CNMI Senate—whether the current method of apportionment is appropriate or should the seats be apportioned based on population.

Camacho's stand on a "new compromise"—to reapportion the Senate by giving five seats to Saipan and two each on Rota and Tinian—gained the approving nods of the judges, who awarded her the $300 cash prize, a trophy, gift certificates, and the perpetual cup for her school.

Camacho and the rest of the participants presented their arguments for the allowed 12 minutes each in the presence of island leaders, including Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, members of the 17th CNMI Legislature, and community members.

Contestants were judged based on three scoring criteria: content, which covers comprehension of issue, adequacy of research, analysis of issue, and organization; presentation, which includes poise and demeanor, eye contact, and delivery; and persuasion, which takes in clarity and ability to convince.

This year's panel of judges included current and past attorneys general: Edward Buckingham, Matthew Gregory, Herbert Soll, Rexford Kosack, Alexandro Castro, Robert Naraja, and Robert T. Torres.

The 16-year-old Camacho said in an interview after the awarding ceremony that her victory came as "a complete surprise" because of her competitors whom she described as "great speakers."

Camacho disclosed that she had been practicing day and night "to memorize the speech and get it right."

An active member of her school's Theatre Club, Camacho said encouragement and support, including critique, of her classmates, friends, and family members "are the reasons why I won today."

When asked how it felt having her own dad as coach, Camacho said, "As much as it was comforting having my father there, it was also kind of pressuring because previous years, we've won and he's been the coach and I felt that if I lost, the person that lost it for the tenth year is the coach's own daughter."

Galvin Deleon Guerrero, in a separate interview, echoed the challenge of coaching one's own child.

"It's much more emotionally invested. It's harder because with someone else's kid, they go home every night and they rely on someone else for emotional support. She comes home to me and my wife and I've never been this nervous before," he explained.

When his daughter's name was called, Galvin Deleon Guerrero said he felt "relieved" knowing that the two-month preparation was all worth it.

"I'm just very, very happy for her and I'm very proud of her," he added.

Coming in at second place was Saipan Southern High School senior Lallane Guiao, who won $200 cash, a trophy, and gift certificates. In third place is Calvary Christian Academy senior Midori Nishida, who won $100, a trophy, and gift certificates. The rest of the participants also received gift certificates from various sponsors.

Fitial, in his remarks, congratulated the organizers and the participants of the event, which discussed "a rather complex, and sometimes, sensitive issue."

"Since its inception, the AG's Cup has evolved into one of the most premier forums for rigorous research and full-spirited debates," added Fitial.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham congratulated the students for their "courage" to take part in the annual event.

"It takes a lot of courage to get up in front of the leaders of the Commonwealth, in front of the community, and to speak on a challenging issue. I think most people can't do that. I think they deserve respect and appreciation for that," said Buckingham, who has been hosting the competition for three years now.

Asked how difficult it was to judge this year's competition, Buckingham said, "When you're having really talented people, it's of course not just hard [to judge] but it's [also] a privilege."

Yesterday's event also honored acting chief justice Alexandro C. Castro, the founding father of the Annual AG's Cup.

"We're all here because of you," said Buckingham, presenting a plaque to Castro.

Castro recounted the beginnings of the Law Day celebration in the United States and in the CNMI and emphasized that the powers of the government "based upon the rule of law" is equally divided into its three branches: the executive, the legislative, and the judiciary.

As the Commonwealth commemorates Law Week, Castro reminded his audience of the importance of its justice system, which it inherited from the U.S. "It may not be the best system in the world but it's the system that we can all work with so that…all the powers are distributed equally and there's a check and balance that goes from one branch to another."

Kilili presses USDA for more food stamp funding

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Following up on his meeting with USDA Food and Nutrition Services Administrator Audrey Rowe last week, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has alerted Rowe to the 13.6-percent cut in food stamp benefits that the CNMI government began on May 1. In a letter yesterday to Rowe, Sablan reported on the new cut, which lowers daily benefits to a maximum of just $3.64 per person in a family of four.

"This only underscores the plight of my constituents who depend upon federal food aid and adds to the urgency of their situation," Sablan wrote. "[W]e must do more both for the remaining months of the current fiscal year and in the context of negotiations for fiscal year 2013 to ensure adequate food assistance for families in the Northern Marianas."

The 13.6-percent cut is the same percentage that benefits were raised in 2009 after Sablan petitioned Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack for equal treatment for the Northern Marianas. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act that year upped food aid nationwide by 13.6 percent.

Sablan

"[I]t appears that all the benefit of that Recovery Act increase, which continues for other Americans until Oct. 1, 2013, has now been erased for families in the Northern Marianas," Sablan told Rowe.

Sablan was also able to win an additional $1 million for this year's food stamp grant, which, added to the 13.6-percent increase that began in 2009, brought the fiscal year 2012 total to $13.148 million. Vilsack specified that the extra $1 million could only be used for benefits and not for any local administrative costs of the program. The additional benefit funds appear to be used up now that the CNMI has begun an across-the-board cut.

"More and more people need this food assistance to feed their families," said Sablan. "USDA and the CNMI must do a better job of looking ahead when negotiating each year's block grant, so that the program does not run out of money like this."

Sablan has been working to include the Northern Marianas in the national Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP, which automatically provides more money when more people need help.

Benefits are also higher under SNAP. Maximum monthly benefits for a family of four on Guam, which is in SNAP, are $985 compared to just $435 in the Northern Marianas.

Sablan's bill H.R. 1465, the AYUDA Act, includes the CNMI in SNAP. It has 37 co-sponsors and is now listed as priority legislation by the Congressional Out of Poverty Caucus. ***(PR)***

Man challenges gym staff to a fight, gets 7-day sentence

A man accused of screaming and challenging a Gold's Gym staff to a fight and stealing two energy bars worth $2.50 each pleaded guilty and was sentenced to seven days in prison.

David Wayne Clare, 58, pleaded guilty Wednesday to disturbing the peace as part of a plea agreement. He was sentenced to 30 days in prison, all suspended except for seven days, with credit for the seven days he has already served in jail. This means he will no longer serve further jail time.

Clare will be placed on probation for six months and was ordered to pay a $50 fine, $25 court assessment fee, and $60 probation fee.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo also ordered Clare to immediately pay Gold's Gym $5 for the two energy bars he stole.

Clare is also barred from any contact with Gold's Gym for the entire six months of his probation.

So long as Clare pays the restitution, fine, court costs, and probation fee, he may leave Saipan and need not return for a review hearing, Govendo said.

Clare reportedly lives in Guam.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged him with theft, assault, and disturbing the peace. The remaining charges were dropped as part of the plea deal.

Clare entered Gold's Gym on April 24, 2012, and challenged a male staff to a fight by raising his fists and screaming threats at him. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

'Reapportionment may be unnecessary'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that re-apportionment or redistricting "may not be necessary" at this time but he and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial have yet to discuss the matter. Today marks the last day for the Legislature to promulgate such a plan.

"We'll have to take a look at it. Maybe redistricting may not be necessary," Inos told reporters in an interview during a break at the Attorney General's Cup yesterday. After the AG's Cup, Fitial avoided media interviews.

Inos

Inos said the governor has 120 days or four months to decide on the matter.

"That's sufficient [time] enough to really dwell into it and discuss it," Inos said.

Tomorrow will mark the first day of the 120-day period for the governor to promulgate a re-apportionment or redistricting plan.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham issued a two-page legal opinion on Feb. 6, concluding that the 120-day period for the Legislature to promulgate a re-apportionment or redistricting plan began on Jan. 5, 2012, "and will end on May 4, 2012."

The Legislature is allowing its own 120-day period to lapse today, lawmakers said yesterday.

Rep. Ray Yumul (R-Saipan), the first lawmaker to bring up the re-apportionment and redistricting matter after the results of the Census 2010 came out, said yesterday it is "disappointing" that the House didn't decide on anything.

"We had our Thursday session, the last session before the 120 days end, and there was not even a mention of re-apportionment. Starting tomorrow, we won't have any say anymore on redistricting and re-apportionment. It will now be up to the governor," he said.

But he said re-apportionment may just maintain the same number of lawmakers. If one has to use Rota's 2010 estimated population as base population, the number of House members from Saipan should be 19, instead of the current 18, so this will bring the total House members to 21.

Yumul, citing the NMI Constitution, says the number of House members is capped at 20. "So increasing it based on the Rota population is moot because we can't exceed 20," he added.

Redistricting, however, is another matter, he said, adding that some precincts may have to be expanded or shrunk.

All is not lost. Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) and Rep. Froilan Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) still have pending initiatives to reduce the number of lawmakers. Tenorio introduced his initiative yesterday. Their proposal calls for a constitutional amendment, in light of a shrinking population and economy.

Palacios wants to reduce the number of House members from Saipan from 18 to nine, while Tenorio wants to reduce the number of House and Senate members from 29 to 17.

Fund wants identities of 2 unnamed creditors disclosed

The NMI Retirement Fund is insisting that the two unnamed retirees that want the Fund's Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition dismissed must disclose their identities before further proceedings are conducted on their motion.

The Fund, through counsel Jeremy B. Coffey, wrote a letter Wednesday to U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Hawaii Chief Bankruptcy Judge Robert J. Faris, seeking clarification regarding disclosures of the unnamed retirees' identities.

Coffey said the Fund believes there are questions whether attorney Bruce Jorgensen, as the unnamed retirees' counsel, in fact represents these creditors and whether he represents parties in interest under the Bankruptcy Code.

In previous proceedings before the U.S. District Court for the NMI, the Fund has challenged the propriety of the two unnamed creditors participating in the case anonymously, Coffey said.

To date, he said, two different district judges have agreed that the two unnamed creditors have failed to establish a need for anonymity.

The Fund, Coffey said, believes disclosure of the identities of the two unnamed creditors is necessary and appropriate in that the positions advocated by these purported creditors are at odds with the interests of the other creditors.

Disclosure of their identifies, Coffey said, could reveal that the two unnamed creditors are either not actual creditors of the Fund and do not have standing to appear in the bankruptcy case, or holders of claims being disputed by the Fund.

Jorgensen's co-counsel, Margery Bronster, in a letter to Coffey dated April 26, 2012, stated that their clients (the unnamed retirees) are believed to be in the same situation as other retiree beneficiaries of the Fund in a pending federal court class action.

Bronster said that because these unnamed creditors only represent other creditors in the bankruptcy case in their status as "class representatives," they were not required to file the disclosures required by Bankruptcy Rule 2019.

Bronster earlier asked the court to dismiss the Fund's bankruptcy petition, saying the Fund is a "governmental unit" and an agency of the Commonwealth" and therefore is not a "person" eligible to file such a petition under the Bankruptcy Code. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Charter Day Today

marianas idol I dance competition
battle of the bands I hilux truck show

Morning Activities (begins 8:00 am)

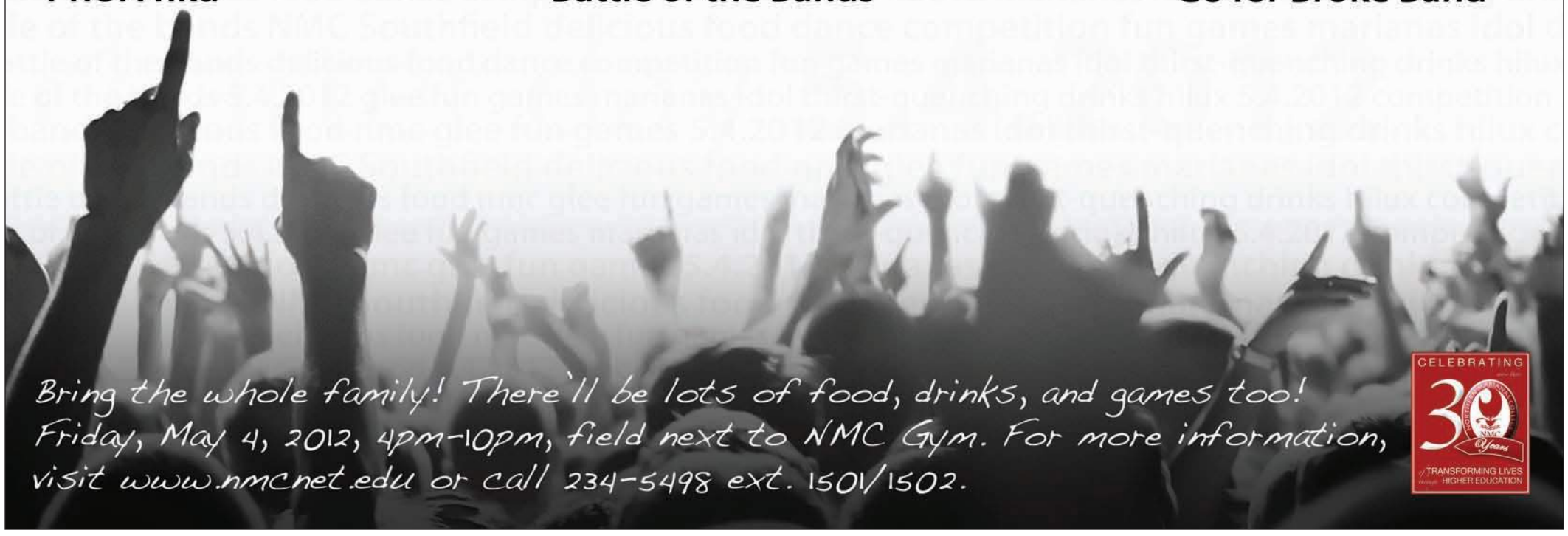
CREES Citrus Workshop
CREES Open House
Volleyball: Employees vs. Students
Basketball: Employees vs. Students
CREES Recipe/Cooking Competition

Opening Ceremonies (begins 4:00 pm)

National Anthem by the Proa Music Society
Welcoming Remarks - Dr. Sharon Hart, NMC President
Proclamation Signing Governor / Lt. Governor
Presentation of House Resolution
Employee Recognition Awards
Donor of the Year Award
Farmer of the Year Award
Presentation of Sports Awards

Evening Program (5:00 pm to 10:00 pm)

Maika'i
Black Sands
Big Ken Camacho
Hilux Competition
PROA'nkd
Micronesian Club Ataktak Crew
Carolinian Maas
Clash of the Crews
Proa Music Society Revue
Battle of the Bands
Marianas Idol
SSHS Singing Group
Umang Glee Club
Afetnas Regime
Go for Broke Band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MVA board yet to adopt tourism master plan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Visitors Authority board has yet to take any action on the final draft of the CNMI Tourism Master Plan for 2012 to 2016.

During yesterday's regular meeting, board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce recommended that the board have a one-day work session to sit down and go through the document.

The board agreed to have the work session within the month before it formally adopts the 100-page master plan prepared by Management Analysis Inc. and funded by the Office of the Insular Affairs last year.

Aldan-Pierce noted that the work session will be in time for the next board meeting slated for June 20.

The master plan contains extensive research regarding destination and markets, the CNMI's tourism history, needed tourism projects, and other important recommendations for development over the next five years.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio pointed out that the master plan is an "independent study" and has two components: the "public" component, which is the plan itself, and the "industry side," which gives more details on the surveys conducted and used in the plan.

The document, Tenorio said, is not only limited to the role of MVA but also the responsibilities of both the public and private sectors in the development of the Commonwealth's tourism industry.

The master plan was endorsed to then acting governor Eloy S. Inos on March 15. Copies of the document were also provided to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Cabinet members.

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Crime Stoppers is seeking the community's assistance for information on a burglary and theft incident that occurred at the Mayor of Saipan's Dog Pound facility in Lower Base.

Copper wire theft at dog pound

On Friday, April 25, 2012, at about 8am, employees working at the dog kennel discovered that the power lines connected to the CUC power pole had been cut and stolen. The contractor working on the kennels reported the theft. Police learned the kennel was secured by the contractor at the end of the work day on Thursday, April 24, 2012. About 120 feet of electrical copper wire was stolen.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

May 4, 1999

CNMI seals PSS bond deal

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, along with Board of Education Chairperson Esther S. Fleming and Commonwealth Development Authority Board Chairperson Juan S. Tenorio, yesterday signed the $15.7 million bond purchase agreement that will clear for the implementation of key projects for the education sector. Proceeds from the bond float will cover local matching requirements for the construction of new schools and additional classrooms under the Capital Improvement Projects of the Section 702 of the Covenant. Building of new campuses for high school and a junior high, as well as repair of several existing school facilities, has been pushed back due to shrinking cash resources of the Commonwealth.

HANMI lauds CPA for incentives

The Hotel Association of Northern Mariana Islands yesterday commended the Commonwealth Ports Authority for helping revive the island's ailing tourism economy by providing incentives to airlines. Ron Sablan, president of HANMI, expressed hope that this will encourage airlines to expand service in the CNMI to help boost traffic and increase hotel occupancy. "Even if all the four signatory airlines servicing various routes to the CNMI will always be in full capacity, hotel occupancy will still be only 50 percent," said Sablan.

May 4, 2000

Seamen sue employer for $6M

A group of Filipino seamen yesterday filed a complaint before the U.S. District Court against their employer, demanding over $6 million in damages representing unpaid wages, penalty charges and other costs. Angyuta Shipping Co. Ltd., which owns and operates the Panamanian-registered M/V Celeste, was slapped with the lawsuit after the plaintiffs claimed they have not been paid their wages since June 1999. Nicolas A. Songsong, president of the shipping firm based on Rota, could not be reached for comment on the suit. The telephone numbers listed in the phone book are temporarily out of service.

DLNR mulls new policies for farm shelters

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources is mulling over new policies that would create standardized farm shelters for Kagman farm workers amid conflicts involving some 30 farm structures that have reportedly been converted into permanent homes. DLNR also disclosed yesterday plans to hold talks with Kagman farmers, the Attorney General's Office, the Division of Public Lands, and the Department of Agriculture with high hopes of reaching an agreement on the issue. The parties will meet to review the existing farm land lease agreement and explore possible solutions to the issue at hand.

May 4, 2001

Chief justice details NMI Judiciary's feats

The Commonwealth judiciary hosted yesterday a gathering that detailed an undivided focus on the local judicial system's string of accomplishments and visions. The inaugural event which from this year on will be known as the Commonwealth's State of the Judiciary Address was attended by distinguished members of the legal community and other dignitaries. The address, delivered by Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan, reflected on the local judiciary's long years of service. Speaking before a room full of audience, the presiding justice of the Supreme Court dwelled on various facets that make up the judicial branch, highlighting on the series of developments made possible by its own members.

CDA processing more housing loans

The Commonwealth Development Authority is expediting the processing of loans for residential units, in efforts to help local residents own a decent housing facility. CDA has been receiving an average of 20-40 housing loans every month. The agency has been instrumental in ongoing housing projects which include the construction of almost three hundred residential units. CDA has, to date, approved approximately 200 loans. Closed housing loans at present involve about 180 to 200 units and the rest, with an average of 20 to 40 loans every month, are still being processed. Although there are very few construction activities for residential units seen in the community, he explained that this is because it takes time before the erection of the structure starts after the loan has been approved.

Community invited to NMC's Charter Day today

To celebrate more than 30 years of enriching lives through higher education, the Northern Marianas College is inviting the CNMI community to its biggest celebration of the year, Charter Day, today, May 4, 2012.

"We're inviting everyone to join us in As Terlaje for our Charter Day celebration," said NMC president Sharon Hart. "We'll be showcasing various programs, celebrating employee and student achievement, and of course, featuring great entertainment."

The festivities will kick off in the morning, with the open house hosted by the NMC Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service. The open house will take place from 9am to 2pm. CREES will also be hosting a citrus workshop earlier at 8am in Room D1.

The celebration will continue in the afternoon with the employee and student recognition awards, the signing of a proclamation, and the presentation of the House of Representatives resolution. The college will also be presenting its first ever "Donor of the Year" award, which recognizes business partners who have played a key role in NMC students' success. Additionally, CREES will be handing out a "Farmer of the Year" Award and "Dean's Recognition Award for Farming."

The evening portion (5pm to 10pm) of the event will feature the Marianas Idol Competition, the Battle of the Bands, and the Clash of the Crews Dance Competition, and first ever Hilux Truck Show Competition sponsored by Microl Toyota and Power 99. Scheduled performers include Maika'I, Black Sands, Micronesian Club, Proa Music Society, SSHS Singing Group, Umang Glee Club, Afetnas Regime, Go for Broke Band, and more.

Delicious food, drinks and games will also be offered for sale by numerous vendors.

Because the event will be streamed live on the Internet, anyone off island can watch the Charter Day program by visiting the following site: www.ustream.tv/channel/nmc-30th-charterday.

Sponsors of the event include D&Q, IT&E, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., IP&E, KKMP, *Marianas Variety*, Microl Toyota, NMC CREES, Pacific Trading Co., Power 99, Salbahe Company, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. For more information about NMC or Charter Day, visit www.nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

NMC
Microl Toyota general manager Doug Brennan, fourth from right, and other Toyota representatives present two Apple iPad tablet computers and other prizes to Leo Pangelinan, dean of Student Services, fourth from left. The prizes were donated for the NMC Charter Day Hilux Truck Show Competition.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS

Birthday greetings go out to Joseph Peter S. Palacios, who is celebrating his birthday today, May 4, 2012! May you have a wonderful and glorious day on your special day. Greetings coming from Theillia and your two wonderful kids.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Advanced happy birthday to Jennesa Gebhard, who is celebrating her birthday tomorrow, May 5! She will be 3 years old.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Kisha Lynn Masga King! Enjoy your special day and may you have many more to come! May the Lord bless you with happiness and laughter today and every day for the rest of your life! We love you. Greetings come from your favorite cousin, Randall Masga Pangelinan, friends and family near and far.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER
AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

The NMI government made a Ponzi of the Fund—and not the other way around

By WILLIAM H. STEWART
Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is an economist, historian, and military cartographer.

More than one person in the NMI has opined that the Retirement Fund was structured to be nothing more than a Ponzi scheme.

I disagree.

For those who are interested, the term "Ponzi" has its origin in a fraudulent operation that pays returns to its investors (members) from their own money and from money provided by new investors (members). This is only possible when there is an ever-increasing flow of money from new investors to keep the scheme going. After awhile there are not enough new investors to "feed" payments to older investors and the house of cards collapses. The system is destined to collapse because eventually the base of a supply of new members dries up.

I do not believe it is accurate to refer to a government sponsored defined benefit retirement plan (DBP) and specifically the NMI's retirement fund, or even Social Security, as being patterned after a Ponzi scheme. Here is why: The key concept is "government."

Unlike private business which come and go as a result of a number of adverse forces and events effecting them be it economic or natural calamities—also resulting in the demise their employee's retirement plan—this need not be so with government as the situation is different unless self-afflicted by government ineptness as when a government commits economic suicide when incompetent leaders are elected.

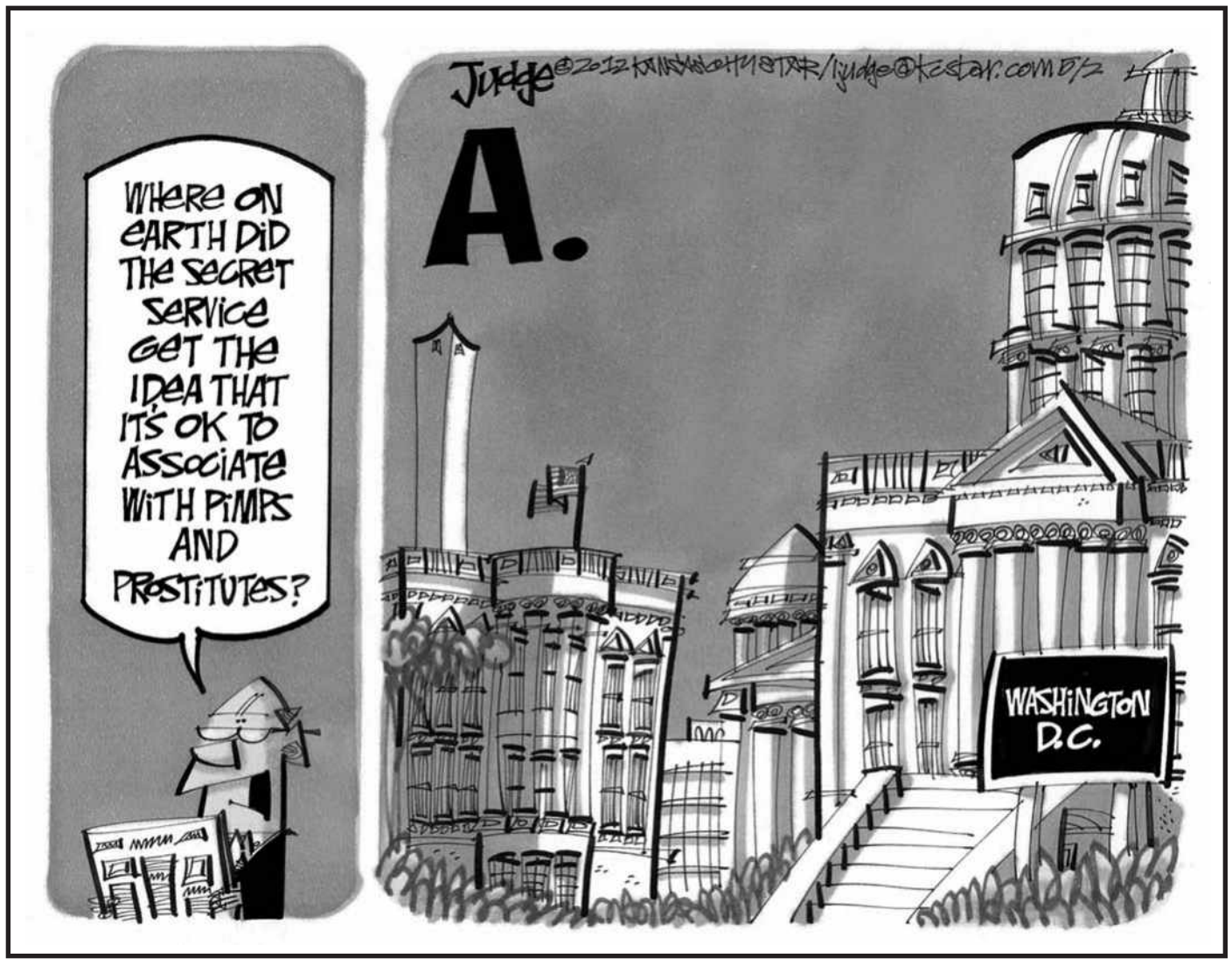
Unless the world comes to an end—or unless one government is absorbed by another as by an act of war—normally governments are rightfully assumed to be perpetual (as in continuous, permanent, stable, deathless) and thus expected to exist forever. That being the case, a government will always be in need of employees and—as existing employees, leave, retire, die, or are fired—they are almost always replaced by new employees. Have you ever wondered why government's cannot seem to reduce the size of their payroll? Many are loath to do so, including the NMI.

It is a never-ending process—just as the requirement to pay taxes will never end, people must render unto Caesar what is Caesar's, namely taxes. In the NMI taxes begets government employees which in turn generates votes and the system repeats itself over and over. The payment of taxes is an old story; Joseph and Mary knew it was required when they traveled to Bethlehem. If you don't believe that governments don't perpetuate their own existence and therefore the need for employees, I have a bunch of stuff out back in the weeds I would like to sell you.

So, unlike a Ponzi scheme that eventually runs out of new members, it is highly unlikely for a government to do so as there will always be a need to replenish its staff as older employees leave. Thus, a government's defined benefit plan can continue to exist as long as it is maintained and supported by the sponsoring government and it will never collapse as new employees join to replace the old who leave the active rolls.

The problem with the NMI's defined benefit plan is that the various administrations abandoned the DBP and along with it the prom-

See FUND on Next Page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A.
WHERE ON EARTH DID THE SECRET SERVICE GET THE IDEA THAT IT'S OK TO ASSOCIATE WITH PIMPS AND PROSTITUTES?
WASHINGTON D.C.

NMI's fiscal calamity descends

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

The local economy isn't just crumbling. It is disintegrating under the shifting sands of bankruptcy. It leaves budget experts on the hill waltzing with mental paralysis as they watch the coffers dry up. The fiscal year 2013 budget projection is a meager $102 million.

It isn't hard discerning why we're now dancing with bankruptcy. Just take a critical review of how much tax revenues have decreased (a whopping $154 million). We used to boast of $256 million annually a decade or so ago. This has severely dropped to some $102 million today.

Out of $102 million for 2013, take away 80 percent for payroll. This leaves some $20 million for all others. This is where vicious fiscal shortfall places PSS, CHC, and others scrambling to secure the most of what's left. It doesn't include any reserve fund of some $60 million to $90 million for the retirement program's annual payout. This is a simple demonstration of the NMI's financial posture where figures don't lie.

It should seriously concern both leadership and retirees. The announcement to find workable options to defray the cost of mounting pension and healthcare bills for retirees would accumulate into unfunded promises. If nothing else works, it may mean imposing higher taxes that would crowd out spending in a very poor business climate. The NMI has an enormous retirement obligation it must pay at a time when revenues have concurrently gone south as a result of persistent business closures.

How do we resolve this issue so the Fund could eventually be self-sustaining? Obviously, the program needs the assistance of retirement and financial planning specialists. Politicians simply don't have the wherewithal to do any justice to an issue they have ignored for 32 years. In fact, this dangerous group must be kept farthest from expert recommended institution of solid steps to ensuring the solvency of the Fund. The program requires reform and seed funding such that it doesn't become a major burden to scarce NMI revenues.

The severity of the fiscal calamity may force such shortsighted proposals as bond flotation, the sale of public land, tax increases to pay down what's owed the Fund. But would any of these options ensure that the Fund becomes self-sustaining in finding some $$60 million-$90 million annually to pay pension and health-care bills of retirees?

In short, let's not encourage the mindset that the administration has found lasting solutions. Let's discuss options and figure out whether in fact it could withstand the test or challenge of meeting Fund obligations over the long haul. After all, facts and figures within reach do not lie; only politicians employ honeyed-statements to buy time to cover their inactions and inadequacies.

■■■

Repeating history

The last time a government agency loaned money, it started marching steadily toward Fiscal Cliff for its kamikaze internment. This was the brief history of the NMI Retirement Fund once overflowing with millions of dollars.

It loaned millions to other agencies, confident it will never go bankrupt. Isn't it true that the Fund is now exploring the various chapters of bankruptcy in federal court?

Aren't we replicating the same dangerous footsteps with the Marianas Public Land Trust dishing out millions of dollars for agency loans, including application for millions more for various business proposals from the business sector? Isn't this the role of banking and financing institutions, i.e., CDA and private banks?

We're already eyeing an initiative for the sale of public land to cover debts owed the Fund. Would we have more land for this purpose if MPLT goes belly up? Would approving casino gaming for the third senatorial district (Saipan) be sufficient to support the increasing needs of the NMI?

For all the mess at home, the deafening silence of people on the hill saddled with mind-numbing disorientation amidst pressure for real answers presents another round of hopelessness. It's the net result of snoozing on the job for over three decades. They find it hard trying to understand what it feels like doing real hard work.

The local treasury is dry while investments have slowly died, if not already. At the same time our needs increase by leaps and bounds daily. Isn't it our responsibility as citizens to step forward so we could collectively take the reins of leadership from an elitist group who no longer listen nor hear our voice of dire discontentment?

Their coalition of silence and paralysis is a tale of their juvenile perception of issues that ordinary citizens find most troubling. There's nothing to be fearful of if it means protecting our rights to recapturing and rebuilding paradise like we used to know it. Our children deserve our proactive participation today to protect the NMI from the scourge of leadership's negligence. No one deserves any form of enslavement, especially those politically designed to retain power at our expense. Not this time around!

See FISCAL on Next Page

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Ancient secrets revealed!

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Though the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund litigation is a topic begging for attention, it's already getting a lot of it. So I'm going to kick that can down the road for a bit. This clears the path for me to address some email related to my April 20 column, *Revenge of the Saipan Sign Squiggle Squad*. I have been asked, given that Chinese has no alphabet, how it's possible for people to look up unknown characters as they seek to puzzle out Chinese signs.

As for Chinese characters, this isn't the first time such things have seen newsprint. A matter of decades ago the *Straits Times* ran a series of illustrated features that explained the origins of Chinese characters. It was charming, original, and instructive. For those of us who missed the original run the stuff has been incorporated in three books, the *Fun with Chinese Characters* volumes, which are widely available.

Chinese characters are a lot like good old country songs: They take the common things in life and make really good stories out of them.

Just as an Alabama jukebox spins yarns about trucks, trains, honky tonk, hot ladies in tight fittin' jeans, and cold Lone Star beer, the ancient East had its way of compiling observations in the linguistic realm, by drawing little pictures of important stuff. Here's a random grab-bag of that stuff: wood, grain, rice, mouth, foot, eye, gold, bird, road, water, hand, knife, person, field, fire, heart, door, sun, and moon.

These elements, and others, are known as "radicals," and are the building blocks of Chinese characters. Many also serve duty as stand-alone items. Like Legos, they can be snapped together to convey various ideas (words). There are, by most counts I've seen, only 214 radicals. That's a small number for such a big language.

The ways the characters are drawn have changed over the past 4,000 years or so, and I suspect they have mutated (or evolved; take your pick) to make them easier to write. That's a score for efficiency, but it has sometimes eroded the resemblance that the characters had to whatever it is they depicted. So for me, it's helpful to take a look at the ancient versions of a character, just to get a better idea for where it came from, thus making it easier to learn and remember.

Getting back on the main track here, there are actually a few ways of compiling dictionaries of Chinese characters. One such way is to organize them based on their radicals. It's a fine idea, but for a slob like me it's never a clean process, and it involves a lot of guesswork and flailing around.

The book I've found most useful for this is called *What Character is That?*, written by Ping-gam Go. He holds degrees in physics and math. His scientific minds shows, and he has a knack for organizing things in a manner that allows readers to associate common elements, thus making the characters easier to understand and remember.

So, armed with this book and a basic knowledge of Chinese radicals, those of us in the Squiggle Squad can amuse ourselves by meditating in front of random signs, as we drool on our shirts and puzzle out the writing.

There are also some modern, high-tech keys to these exotic riddles, so, nice guy that I am, I'll poke through my computer bookmarks, select the best ones, and post them on my website for your clicking convenience. But despite the high-tech magic, including recognition of handwritten characters, I get worried that my lazy mind will cut to the chase without learning the route, so I usually force myself to plod through the book.

I opened by mentioning the *Straits Times*, which is published in Singapore. So I'll note that Singapore and Taiwan are Chinese-speaking, so it's not just China itself that inspires people to study the language. More to the point on Saipan, Chinese is a growing language in international tourism. Chinese will continue to grow in importance for the skilled and ambitious.

Our journey has worked out quite well: We have unlocked the ancient secrets and their modern promise. Flush with such success, a true sage might light some incense and prepare some jasmine tea. But me, I'm thinking about a cigar and a cheeseburger.

FUND

From Page 10

ise to the loyal members of the DBP, with the result that the retirees' own government betrayed its own people and made a Ponzi of their retirement plan. The NMI government has intentionally made the DBP to now resemble a Ponzi by cutting the Fund's base of continuing monetary contributions by encouraging active members to withdraw their money and participant in an entirely inadequate defined contribution plan. (For more on this subject check out http://kixproductions.com/cnmiretiree/)

It need not have happened in the first place and now look at the mess the government created and the legal chaos that currently prevails.

FISCAL

From Page 10

Leadership has simply lost its enthusiasm to lead and its agility to move decisively to resolve impending chaos. Now comes the eleventh hour, employing more ad hoc planning, hoping it could float the boat of dystopia and hopelessness into coughing up divine miracles of sort.

■■■

Trashing Pagan

In 1974, I accompanied the Atomic Energy Commission's annual medical exam of folks on Rongelap, Utirik, and Bikini in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. These are folks who were affected by the radiation fallout of the infamous Bravo Experiment.

It was learned that thyroid disorder is 20 percent higher than the national average. Perhaps the most egregious effect was the immediate displacement of a simple livelihood on all three islands. Now there's the need for an annual medical check-up, not that it matters to Uncle Sam but there's the obvious agenda to figure out the effects of radiation on human beings.

If anything, I sailed away from Rongelap and Utirik with a heavy heart after spending several nights sitting amidst the graves of those who died immediately and subsequently from the effects of radiation. Local flora and fauna were prohibited from human consumption for over 26 years. So you could imagine what we took down to review the radiation level that year from reef fish, chicken, coconut crabs, lobster from a nearby reef, root plants, among others.

That was 38 years ago and occasionally I would ponder how my friends have done on Rongelap and Utirik since we last met. Imagine having to endure the effects of radiation and the disorders it brings for a lifetime.

Unthinkable when viewed against the curiosity of the effects of radiation on human beings. Uncle Sam should have waited for the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombardment to secure specimens for his laboratory. Do you want toxic and radioactive materials on Pagan? Tell our friends "sayonara" or "thanks but no thanks."

Transfer of US Okinawa troops a doubly good move

By PATRICK CRONIN
Special to CNN

Patrick M. Cronin is senior adviser and senior director of the Asia-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security in Washington.

The long-term strategy behind America's military repositioning in Asia is gradually revealing itself. A series of moves over the past six months will set the stage for rebalancing U.S. naval, air and ground forces in the region.

In November, the United States announced a permanent rotation of Marines through Australia, the stationing of up to four ships in Singapore, and expanded military exercises with the Philippines. The White House also pledged that it would protect its Asia-Pacific military forces from upcoming defense budget cuts.

Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda's visit to Washington this week came after an announcement about American forces in Japan. Some 9,000 Marines will be transferred from Okinawa, the prefecture that hosts the majority of U.S. forces in Japan, to three other sites: Guam, Hawaii, and -- on rotating training deployments -- Australia. The deal broke the gridlock that had been holding up a reduction of U.S. troops in Okinawa.

A mutual decision not to resolve the thorny issue of a replacement facility for Marine aviation stationed at Futenma eased the way, as did the Japanese agreement to pay more than a third of the $8.6 billion cost of the move.

Okinawa is part of the long Ryukyu Island chain that acts as a natural barrier between the East China Sea and the Western Pacific. U.S. forces have been stationed there since the Battle of Okinawa, the largest Pacific amphibious assault in World War II.

The United States retained possession of Okinawa until 1972, by which time U.S. forces had ensconced themselves in a series of military installations. In 1995, the rape of a 12-year-old Japanese girl by three U.S. servicemen sparked a furor over the vast military presence in Okinawa.

The inability to make good on a 15-year-old agreement to reduce the U.S. presence and hand back more than 20% of the land occupied by troops and to substantially reduce U.S. forces has been an open wound in an otherwise robust alliance with Japan.

The new deal should soothe but not solve local tensions. U.S. forces demonstrated their value in responding to last year's massive earthquake and tsunami, and they remain ready to deal with a range of potential near-term threats.

But the transfer of Marines from Okinawa is the latest element giving definition to a long-term strategy to preserve regional order and U.S. influence throughout Asia. These gradual changes are happening amid a variety of key debates: within the United States, about the necessity and affordability of a strong presence in Asia; within China about whether America's "return to Asia" is aimed at containing growing Chinese power; and within the region over the durability of America's commitment to underwriting order in the Asia-Pacific region.

There are good reasons for retaining but dispersing U.S. military forces throughout the region.

First, the Asia-Pacific region is of growing global importance economically and politically, a long-term trend that has made it a rising priority for U.S. administrations since the end of the Cold War.

There is indeed a desire to preserve a favorable balance of military power so as to deter and accommodate a re-emerging China; yet the retention of U.S. forces in the region is not designed to curb Chinese growth.

U.S. and Japanese leaders label this as dealing with "uncertainty." It hedges against a variety of contingencies, from conflict with North Korea to natural disasters, while also reassuring allies, engaging a larger number of regional partners, and allowing the United States to be a force for stability within an evolving regional order.

Second, these changes emerge from a longstanding need for better management of the U.S.-Japan alliance. To reduce the political if not the financial costs of stationing forces in Japan, the United States must lighten the burden on local populations, especially in Okinawa.

A closer integration of U.S. and Japanese forces is likewise under way. China portrays the U.S.-Japan alliance as a Cold War relic incompatible with expanding cooperation with China; but most regional neighbors see it as a reassuring bellwether of stability.

Third, the U.S. rebalancing redistributes forces from a few, fixed bases that are increasingly vulnerable to such emerging potential threats as China's missile, cyber and space capabilities, and maritime and air forces.

Retaining the III Marine Expeditionary Force headquarters and some forces in Okinawa, the United States is shifting two Marine Air-Ground Task Forces (each comprising about 2,500 troops) to an emerging strategic hub in Guam, rotating another through Darwin, Australia, and basing supporting elements in Hawaii. These forces are more resilient because they are more difficult to target, yet well poised to maneuver together in the event of a crisis.

In short, the shifting of U.S. forces in the Asia-Pacific region is designed to deter conflict, respond to contingencies, reassure allies and partners, and shape an evolving regional order, including cooperation on humanitarian assistance and disaster response.

Japan, once called an "unsinkable aircraft carrier," remains critical to U.S. basing strategy in the Asia-Pacific. Some 30,000 U.S. forces will remain based in Japan, about the same number as in Korea. The number is higher if you count U.S. forces afloat. But as prosperous Japan and South Korea assume more responsibilities for their defense, the United States has a strategic, fiscal, and operational need to redistribute its assets. The growing importance of islands, from Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands to Hawaii and other islands that will be used for prepositioning and training, helps build flexibility in the American Pacific strategy.

Various Obama administration officials place an emphasis on America as a "resident power" of the region rather than a foreign presence. But many in the region welcome U.S. military presence precisely because it hails from a distant great power capable of underwriting peace in a region riven by historical conflicts, territorial disputes, resource competition, and disparate values.

The emerging U.S. basing strategy is designed to build on America's long-standing presence while ensuring that its stabilizing power remains welcome for decades to come.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°	▲88° ▼76°

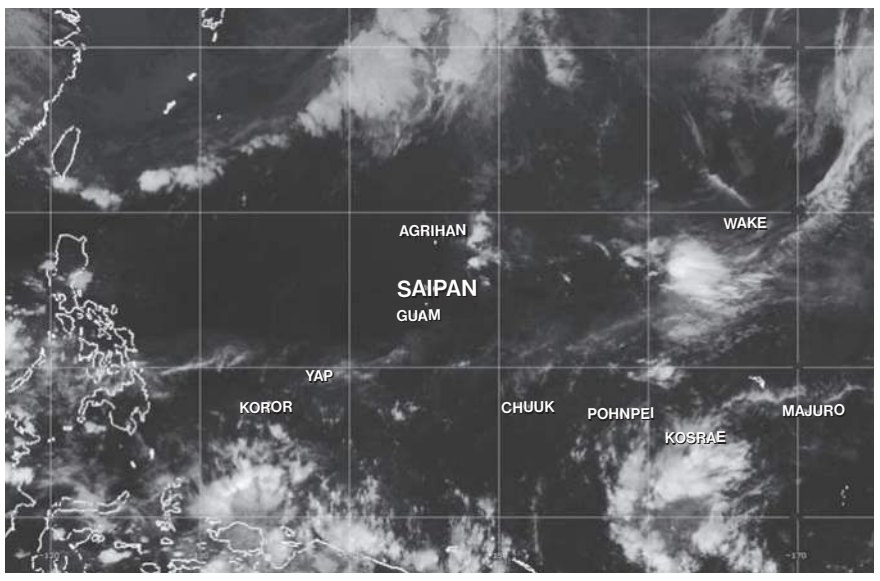
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲88	▼79
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼78
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼80

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲66	▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲80	▼56
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲81	▼78
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼71
London	Showers	▲55	▼44
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲71	▼56
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼83
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲61	▼47
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼71
New York	Thundershowers	▲78	▼60
Osaka	Sunny	▲74	▼56
Paris	Showers	▲67	▼50
Pusan	Sunny	▲69	▼57
Rome	Sunny	▲71	▼51
Salem	Showers	▲53	▼38
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲60	▼50
Seoul	Sunny	▲73	▼51
Tokyo	Sunny	▲74	▼59
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲89	▼70

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from southeast of Okinawa at 25N137E to beyond 130E at 22N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found along and north of the front to beyond 25N. Convergent low-level winds are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Koror or south of a line from 4N130E to 7N135E to 3N142E. A weak circulation is centered just northeast of Saipan near 15N148E. A trough heads northwestward from the circulation to end at 20N144E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are present east of the northern CNMI or within 70 miles of a line from 17N149E to 20N149E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms south of Pohnpei and near Kosrae or south of a line from 4N156E to 6N167E. Another trade-wind disturbance southwest of Wake Island is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms within 175 miles of a line from 18N160E to 14N166E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:33 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
6:30 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:19 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:42 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:36 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:38 PM	3:48 AM
Saturday	5:41 PM	4:38 AM
Sunday	6:47 PM	5:32 AM
Monday	7:52 PM	6:30 AM
Tuesday	8:56 PM	7:31 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Letters to the Editor

Allowing active employees to exit crucial to long-term solution for current retirees

There is a reason Buck Consultants advised the Fund three years ago to allow active employees out of the Fund. They did the math—there was possibly enough money to fund the *current* retirees long term. However, when active employees were put into the equation, *there was no way the Fund would have enough revenue to pay them when they eventually retire.* This "unfunded liability" made long-term viability of the Fund impossible; it also meant that active employees (especially those with 15 years or less) had no future retirement in the Fund. Legislation was created to provide an escape route—under 15 years you could resign. However, how many of us can afford to resign for nine months or more?

If you are reading this and are an active member of the Fund, you have been "taken." You have been paying into a system that never did have a chance of funding your retirement.

At some point along the line, when mistakes were made with the investment portfolio, and a lack of employer's contributions was mounting, the active employees became the "mules" carrying the load.

As the Fund got further diminished, the liability increased to the point that we find ourselves right now—two years of funding for current retirees, zero years of funding for future retirees.

Even as an active employee, I am very aware of the importance of ensuring the long-term viability of the Fund for current retirees. What kind of government turns its back on the *man'amko*? Recently I researched the town of Vallejo in California. The city went bankrupt, cut back on services, closed the library, diminished the work force, but chose to continue fully funding their retirement system.

The Chapter 11 court needs to do two things in order to ensure the long-term viability of the Fund for current retirees:

1) Allow active employees out of the system.

2) Force the government to fund current retirees (after streamlining the system!)

Here is a simplified example: Reportedly the governor will be in a conference call with Social Security this week, attempting to convince them to fund the system. If he says, "I have 2,800 current retirees, with the average age of 55 (life expectancy in the CNMI is 66 for males, 69 for females). I need funding for an average of 12 years for 2,600 current retirees," he may get some receptive response.

However, if he says, "In addition to the 2,800 current retires I have 3,200 active employees, ranging in age from 23 to 63. I need funding for an average of 30 years (estimate only, see page 33 of the actuarial report) for these 3,200 as well," this would never work.

The same is true for any funding measure that the federal court may help impose—taxes on commercial property, taxes on gross receipts, selling government assets, etc.

The bottom line: The retirees have a fighting chance, only if the active members are let go.

Meeting at Memorial Park Amphitheater for active employees this Tuesday, May 8, 6:30pm.

Mark Staal
As Matuis, Saipan

God help us

I want to get my facts straight.

First, I understand that coming from the Interior Department from the Office of Tony Babauta, we have $52 million sitting for CIP activities. And the CNMI is the least active in moving projects.

Second, coming from the ARRA funding through the system in placed to track ARRA awards and expenditure, we have several more millions that is not moving. All in all we have over $100 million sitting right on top of us or somewhere that we can spend. Why is this happening to us?

Third, we know that if we switch our present food stamp program to SNAP (federal system) we can provide another infusion of badly needed capital. The total potential and guaranteed resources is over $150 millions.

All these resources if worked on will jumpstart our economy. I do not know if anyone disagrees with me but what in this darned earth are we doing and who in hell are we working for? With the three resources available right know for us to tap, we can infuse over $150 million of fresh capital to our economy.

God, shine some light (even a tiny flashlight) on the brain of our CNMI leaders so that they can stop fighting and concentrate on really doing something for the people. OK, sell the pozzolan to any country but do not poison the resources of the people. Allow the people to choose and be able to sell their land to outside investors but do not sell the people's land, we need those for the future generation. Allow the present generation to prosper. Some may need to sell to sell their land to have their children educated. Education is more valuable than the land we give to our children. OK, let your young sit around drinking beer doing drugs day in and day out. God help these kids.

Frank Atalig
Sinapalo 1, Rota

Response

This is in response to uncle Francisco R. Agulto's letter to the editor ("If it ain't broken, break it," *Saipan Tribune*, May 1, 2012) where he stated, "Many of us are overwhelmed by paradigm or mindset that oftentimes we are forced to see and think in a vacuum." Yes I agree with you that majority of our people accept things how we do things in the CNMI for decades. But such thinking is an assumption, because I for one do not conform to how things are done in the CNMI. For in the case of our foreign workers in the CNMI, they contributed to our economic advancement in the past and at least the federal government should have the compassion to afford them the opportunity to become one of us.

In answer to his propositional argument—"if it ain't broken, break it"—it is an old problematic common thinking. How that concept is old problematic common thinking in the case of Mr. Sablan? Honorable Sablan is in his second term representing us in Washington and he had acquired the knowledge of how to play the games in Congress to maximize the benefit for his constituents. Based on our observation, Mr. Sablan has the trait to work with both sides of the two political parties in Congress. Honorable Gregorio Camacho Kilili Sablan is not our shining armor, but he has shown that he can do the job for the people of the CNMI in Washington. Mr. Sablan does not discriminate when it comes to representing his constituents and that is the main reason people of the CNMI believe in him.

Why would we want to send an inexperience individual to Congress and take the chance how the individual will perform for the people of the CNMI? Sending elitists to Congress is a way of life in the United States and it is impossible to change such a practice. Mr. Sablan does not qualify as an elitist for he is a commoner and he goes out of the way to protect the interest of his constituents as a whole. Uncle Frank, according to my cousin, the late Honorable Jose Cruz (Pinchang, one of the founding fathers of the CNMI), the local population in the CNMI will be the minority in the future and there is nothing that can be done to reverse it. We need to come to an understanding that the indigenous population is not the only one who has a stake in the CNMI.

Segundo Castro
Stockton, Calif.

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Camacho presented with 2012 ACYF Commissioner's Award

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Julian Rubuenog Camacho, third from right, receives his award from Administration on Children, Youth and Families Commissioner Bryan Samuels, third from left. Others in photo are, from left, Augusta Famaw, Ben Atalig, Community and Cultural Affairs Deputy Secretary Rhonda F. Nogis, and Division of Youth Services Administrator Laura T. Ogumoro.

Julian Rubuenog Camacho from the CNMI has been chosen to receive the 2012 Administration on Children, Youth and Families Commissioner's Award.

The award was presented during the 18th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect on April 16-20 in Washington, D.C. The conference was attended by more than 2,000 child welfare professionals and advocates in the area of child maltreatment.

Recipients were nominated by their state Governor's Office to receive this prestigious award honoring them for making exceptional contributions to the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect in their state or territory. Recipients come from each state, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia and the territories.

Camacho, employed with DCCA-DYS for nearly 13 years, is the supervisor of the Child Protective Services Unit.

Accompanying Camacho to the conference were Community & Cultural Affairs Deputy Secretary Rhonda F. Nogis, Division of Youth Services administrator Laura T. Ogumoro, DYS Tinian staff Augusta Famaw, and DYS Rota staff Ben Atalig.

DYS is mandated by CNMI law to respond to reports involving abused and neglected children and to provide services for families in efforts to reduce or alleviate the risk of further maltreatment. ***(PR)***

Grace Christian to open church, school in Kagman

Grace Christian Ministries announced yesterday the opening of a church and school in Kagman. The building site is located two buildings past the Kagman Market on the right side of the Internet café.

The first church service and dedication for Grace Christian Assembly Kagman will be held on May 6, 2012, at 10am. Rev. Raymond Kinsella, senior pastor, will be the guest speaker for the event.

The church-cum-school is in Kagman as a place of worship to God and to serve the local community. The school will offer whole day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs with subjects such as Bible, reading, cursive writing, math skills, phonics, PE, and music for the 2012-13 school year. GCA is noted for providing excellent Christian education.

The teacher for the new school will be Miriam Dilse. She has 14 years of experience and has lived on the islands of Saipan and Rota for a total of 13 years.

Parents interested in enrolling their children may call the school office on Navy Hill during office hours (7:30am-3:30pm) Monday to Friday at 322-3320 or visit the school on Navy Hill to inquire further. Free application and registration fees for those who will enroll on or before May 30, 2012. ***(PR)***

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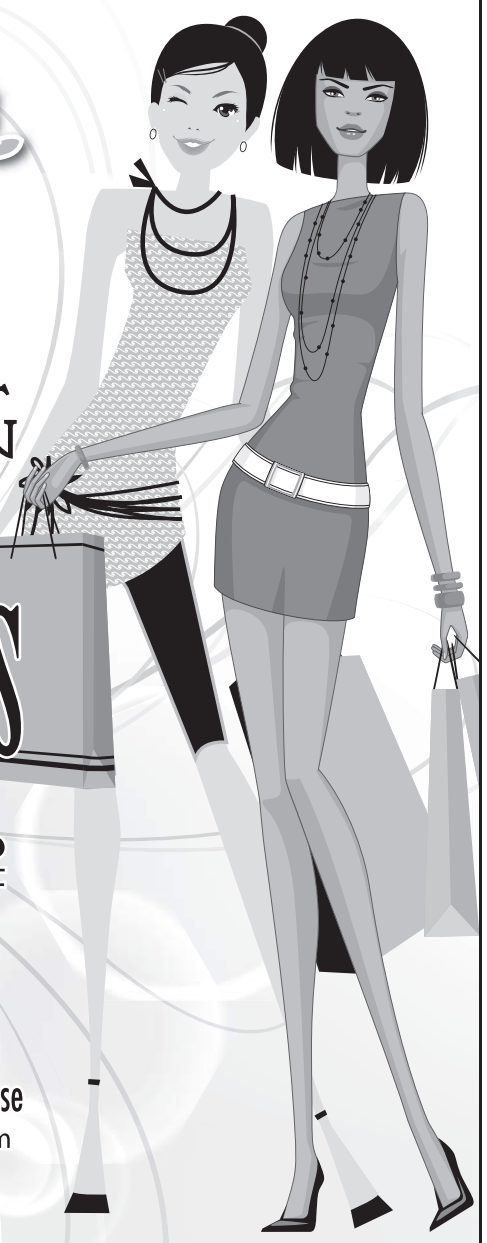

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FOA presents 'Sleuth'

On May 4, 5, and 6, 2012, Friends of the Arts presents the drama *Sleuth*, written by Anthony Shaffer. Two men face off in a deadly game of their own design in the changing times of 1960's England. With witty dialogue and puzzling developments, this show entertains anyone who likes to think, listen, engage in games, or figure things out!

Showtime is 7pm Friday and Saturday nights and 3pm on Sunday at the Dolphin Black Box Theatre (Marianas High School, Building T). Tickets are available in advance or at the door for $8 for students (including college students with student ID), $12 for FOA members, and $15 for adults. For more information, contact Frank Gibson at flgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Agriculture authority on Marianas Agupa

This Saturday, May 5, 2012, Marianas Agupa will feature agriculture expert Isidoro Cabrera who will talk about the Agricultural Fair slated for May 26, 2012, between 10am and 10:30am. The show itself is from 9am to 11am on Magic 100.3 FM. Listeners on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota and those listening via streaming audio are encouraged to call in and ask questions during the show. Direct to studio at 234-5929 or use Marianas Agupa Facebook account via instant messaging.

The Chamorro radio talk show program is hosted by Glenn H. Manglona. Featured reports are as follows: world report and program review by former mayor Joseph S. Inos and a report from Rota with correspondent Thomas D. Mendiola, a special segment called *Hafa Mohon* with Juanita Mendiola and a report from Tinian by correspondent David M. Cing. Simultaneous Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. ***(PR)***

CCA meeting next week

The Commonwealth Cancer Association's board of directors will be holding its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 8, at 3pm in the CCA conference room in Gualo Rai. The agenda includes reports from the president, steering committees, program manager, MMAC 2012, and program and project updates. All board meetings are open to the public. For more information, contact CCA at 682-0050 or email cca@ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

Free business workshops

The CNMI Small Business Development Center, in partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, will be hosting the following free workshops:

- **How to start a business:** May 11, 2012; June 8, 2012. Time: 1:30pm to 3:30pm.
- **How to write a business plan:** May 18, 2012; June 15, 2012. Time: 1:30pm to 3:30pm.
- **How to apply for a bank loan:** May 4, 2012; May 25, 2012; June 22, 2012. Time: 1:30pm to 3:30pm.
- **How to market your business outside the CNMI**: May 7, 2012. Time: 9am to 11am. June 1, 2012; June 29, 2012. Time: 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

All workshops will be held at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room on the first floor of the Familia Building in Garapan, Saipan. Deadline for pre-registration is 12pm, one day before the workshop.

For more information contact Ralph or Linda at 664-3018. Requests for reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities must be made 72 hours in advance. ***(PR)***

Tinian beaches get green flag

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed water samples collected from Tinian's recreational beaches and dock this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria nor did they exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality standards. DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag. The division analyzed a total of 11 samples from the shores surrounding Tinian this week. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

HEALTH WALK
MAY 5, 2012
LIVE HEALTHY:
Life Walk
with
PSS
Registration Information:
Saipan: 5:30am to 8:00am – 13 Fisherman Pavilion
Tinian: 6:00am to 8:00am – Tachog'na Beach
Rota: 6:00am to 8:00am – Joaquin M. Ogo Softball Field
– Dr. Rita Hocog Inos RJSHS
Original was designed in 2009 by Winona Blanco-Maratita
12th Grade Tinian High School

Introducing the Dolphin Black Box Theatre

The Dolphin Black Box Theatre opened quietly and without fanfare at the beginning of the school year 2011-2012. It is located in T Building at Marianas High School and seats 60 to 120, depending on the configuration used.

During its first year in operation, it hosted the MHS Christmas Choral Concert in December and January, the Friends of the Arts production of *The Miracle Worker* by William Gibson in January 2012, and classes by the classical pianist Roman Rudnytsky in January and February 2012. It has also been home to student events, drama class work, chorus, chorale and glee club rehearsals, Thespian competitions and even TV commercial production. Its next scheduled use is for the FOA production of *Sleuth*, by Anthony Shaffer.

Black box theatre is typified by a large empty space where the walls, ceiling, and even floor may be painted black. The space creates the feeling of "any place" and gives room for interpretation and imagination of the setting in the eyes of the audience.

According to Harold Easton, MHS drama teacher, black box theatre has the advantages of providing flexible staging, where any shape stage can be utilized without any other dominating features getting in the way. It can be used during the day or night. The size allows for an intimate performance venue and is highly adaptable to the needs of the production. Black box theatre has become prominent in schools and colleges since its introduction in the 1960s. Lighting takes on a stronger role in black box productions, and there is a strong link between experimental theatre and the use of black box staging.

The MHS Drama occupied a room in "E" building in 1999, according to Eason, and had a small stage and very limited storage. In September of that year, the MHS drama program moved to "H" Building and has a significantly larger space with a 24' x 16' stage, which is still in school use. MHS drama began its relationship with The Friends of the Arts at that time, staging such student productions as *You're A Good Man Charlie Brown* and *Leader of the Pack*, and FOA productions *Steel Magnolias* and *Days of Wine and Roses*.

As the drama program continued, it acquired lighting and sound equipment, and outgrew the space at "H" building. It moved to "D" Building, but was still crowded. Easton and the Drama program used the classroom space for rehearsals more than performances.

"With the addition of the choral program in school year 2010-2011, the need for a larger space was clearly evident," Easton said.

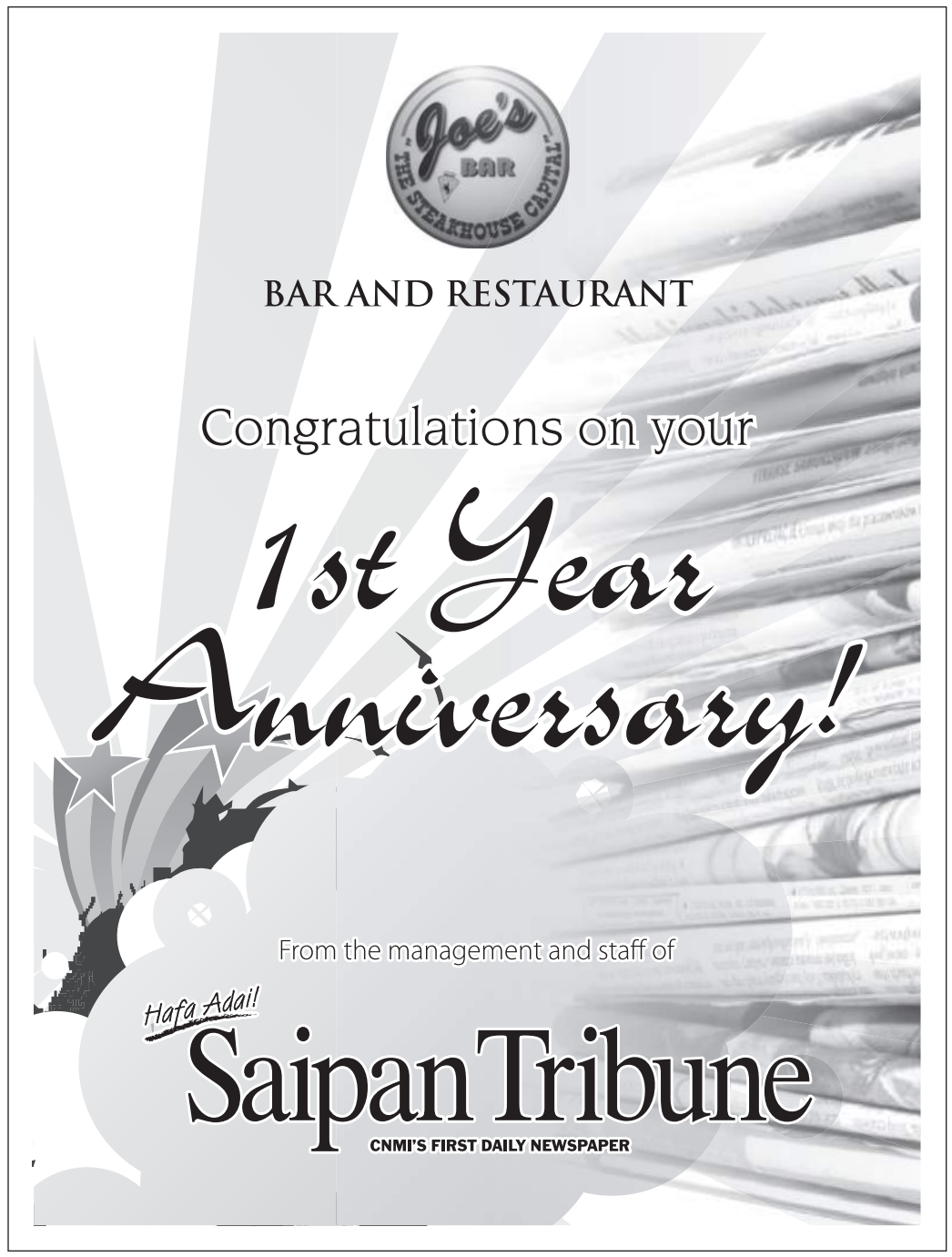
Space in "T" building—about 2,500 square feet of it—was available and quickly converted to use for the Drama program. The space provides the Dolphin Black Box Theatre, two classrooms, and smaller rooms for lighting and sound, a costume shop, prop storage area and a set construction workshop.

"The theatre is still a work-in-progress," Easton said. "A number of upgrades are in the works, most notably the roof and internal insulation."

Some other features also need refurbishment, including a small bathroom, but progress is being made. Since the last FOA production, a new fire alarm system has been installed to better ensure audience safety.

"The Dolphin Black Box Theatre is available for other community use by arrangement," Easton said.

The Dolphin Black Box Theatre (MHS T Building) will host the FOA production *Sleuth*, by Anthony Shaffer, on Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5, 2012, at 7pm, and on Sunday, May 6, 2012, at 3pm. Tickets are available at the door or from Frank Gibson, flgibson@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***



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Pacific

Military rethinking location of Guam Marine base

In this Feb. 2, 2012 file photo released by U.S. Navy, U.S. Marines assigned to the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit haul a 155 mm Howitzer onto the flight deck of the forward-deployed amphibious dock landing ship USS Germantown in Okinawa, Japan, when the ship pulled into Okinawa to embark the Marines in preparation of exercise Cobra Gold 2012. AP

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The federal government is rethinking where to put a Marine base on Guam now that fewer Marines will be moving to the U.S. territory from Okinawa, Japan.

With fewer troops and families to house, a local Marine base could be smaller than previously thought, Joe Ludovici, the executive director of the military's Joint Guam Program Office, said Wednesday.

The base might fit in locations that were ruled out in previous studies, he said.

"So what we are going to try to do this summer, before we start the actual EIS process, is identify what the potential alternatives are," he said, according to the *Pacific Daily News*.

The military will seek public input on the issue, he said. New draft and final environmental impact statements will be released in 2014. A decision on where to put the base and firing range would come the following year.

The changes could also lead to a new proposed location for a firing range.

Under the new plan, 5,000 Marines and 1,300 dependents will move to Guam. The old plan included 8,600 Marines and as many as 12,000 dependents.

The military had been planning to build the Marine base on about 680 acres of civilian land in Dededo, in northern Guam.

The firing range was to go on the site of an ancient village, Pagat, also in northern Guam. The Navy began re-evaluating this idea last year after a lawsuit alleged it had failed to adequately consider other locations that would affect the environment and historical sites less.

Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo said the announcement by the joint program office provided "clarity" on the Marine move. But it also created "ambiguity" and left questions unanswered about the future of some buildup commitments—including funding for infrastructure Japan was to have provided, he said.

Much of the infrastructure funding was offered because the Marines were moving into northern Guam, where the water and wastewater system are already at capacity.

However, now that it's uncertain where the Marine base will be built, the future and purpose of the infrastructure funding is unclear, Ludovici admitted.

Despite the funding ambiguity, Calvo said he thought the revised, smaller buildup would be healthier than the "hyper growth" that was expected under the original buildup plan.

Government estimates had priced the old buildup plan at somewhere between $10 billion and $23 billion, but the new buildup is supposed to cost about $8 billion. At one point the old buildup was expected to add as many as 79,000 people to Guam's population of 170,000.

"It would have been a stretch on our social, economic and political fiber in this community. And also on the environment," Calvo said. "With this more stretched-out time table ... it allows for an easier transition for the military forces to move to Guam."

The U.S. and Japan initially agreed on the plan to move the Marines in 2006. The deal was part of a broader arrangement designed to tamp down tensions in the U.S.-Japan defense alliance stemming in part from opposition in Okinawa to what many view as a burdensome U.S. military presence.

But the two nations have struggled to implement that plan amid opposition in Okinawa to a part of the deal that would keep a strategically important base—Marine Corps Air Station Futenma—within the prefecture.

U.S. lawmakers have meanwhile expressed concern about the high cost of boosting the military presence on Guam, a U.S. territory about 1,500 miles south of Tokyo and 3,700 miles southwest of Hawaii.

UN rep calls for protection for journalists in the Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A United Nations representative says there is still pressure restricting the freedom of the press in the Pacific region.

May 3 marked World Press Freedom Day. The regional representative for the Pacific for the United Nations office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is Matilda Bogner.

She says overall, the press is able to express itself relatively freely within the Pacific, but it does depend on the country, the time and the circumstances.

Matilda Bogner says for example there have been worrying and brutal attacks on journalists in Papua New Guinea since the change of government, but the government has not yet fully investigated the attacks.

"So it is important for the government to fully investigate those and to prosecute anybody who is responsible. That's important not just for due process but it's also important to send a message that they do want to uphold freedom of expression in the country. Whatever the political situation is, journalists need to be able to report on those situations and need to be able to give information to citizens and residents of the country."

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Business

Why small business owners are hesitant to hire

NEW YORK (AP)—Ken Levien has no plans to hire more people for his real estate project management company in New York. He says his business has only about 85 percent of the amount of work it can handle because the building industry is still hurting from the recession.

"Things are looking down in the construction business in New York City," he says.

Levien has a lot of company. Many small business owners aren't hiring or expanding because the outlook for the economy, or their own companies, is uncertain.

That raises the question of whether small businesses will give the economy the boost that it needs. Economists say that in past recoveries, small companies were the first to hire. When the economy was improving, they were more nimble than large companies because they didn't have the bureaucracy that can slow the hiring process. Their hiring helped propel the economy forward.

The economy is growing, but that growth has slowed—and so has the pace of hiring among business with less than 500 employees. The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of just 2.2 percent from January through March, according to government figures. That's down from the moderate 3 percent growth during the last three months of 2011. Making things worse, the pace of hiring by small businesses is slowing, according to the payroll company ADP, which issues a monthly report on employment at companies in the private sector. ADP says that employment at small and medium-sized businesses rose by 181,000 in March. Employment rose by just 116,000 in April.

ON THE FRONT LINES

Levien says his company, Levien & Co., could handle another two or three projects without having to hire more people. The firm handles a variety of commercial building and renovation projects, but specializes in nonprofits like museums, health care facilities, social service organizations, churches and synagogues. Clients have included Carnegie Hall.

But "there's not a lot of building going on in New York City," Levien says.

His assessment is backed up by numbers from the New York Building Congress, a trade association for the construction industry. In a report issued this week, the group forecast that construction spending in the city will rise 5 percent this year after dropping 3.5 percent in 2011. But spending is expected to fall 13 percent in 2013. Levien notes that a lot of construction dollars in New York this year are going toward just one project: the rebuilding of the World Trade Center.

Levien says his company's revenue is stable, but it's still down 11 percent from 2008, the best year his company has had. It's up nearly 30 percent from 2009.

Meanwhile, thousands of miles away, in Las Vegas, Ruth Furman has become very cautious about her public relations business, Image Words. So she's not hiring employees and instead is depending on freelance writers, graphic artists and administrative help.

"I don't feel comfortable with the ebb and flow of my clients' needs," Furman says.

Las Vegas was one of the hardest-hit parts of the country during the recession—the housing market crashed and the casino business dropped off sharply. And many of Furman's clients are in the area. She now gets more short-term projects than she did before the recession, which means her income is less predictable. Last year turned out to be better than expected—revenue was down only slightly from 2010. But she estimates that first-quarter revenue this year was down 13 percent from a year earlier.

THE BIG PICTURE

Small business owners don't want to take chances because they can see how troubled the national economy is, says Paul Merski, chief economist with the Independent Community Bankers of America, a banking trade group.

"If you go through the litany of economic data, it is just not giving small businesses the confidence to hire, to expand," Merski says. "They don't see the future return on that (expansion), or the future cash flow to take on additional debt." One sign that small businesses may be poised to do more hiring is that they would take out loans to fuel expansion.

But it's not just that companies aren't applying for loans.

"Small businesses haven't even tapped their open lines of credit," Merski says. "I hear from community bankers saying, `I wish I had loan demand."

Wells Fargo & Co. is seeing the trend firsthand. "More people are paying down their lines of credit than are drawing down on them," says Mark Bernstein, head of the bank's small business division.

The Great Recession is still fresh in the minds of many small business owners. "Who would expect small business people not to be a little bit cautious after this experience?" Bernstein says.

But Angelo Santinelli, a management consultant and adjunct lecturer in entrepreneurship at Babson College, believes small business owners are focused on what's going on in their own companies rather than on economic reports. He says manufacturers aren't stepping up their production because they're concerned that without strong sales they'll be stuck with inventory and they'll lose money.

"No one feels comfortable that they're going to make their numbers," Santinelli says. "Every sales person is working harder than ever before."

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-017

FINANCIAL AND COMPLIANCE AUDIT FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2012

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to perform a financial and compliance audit of the CUC for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2012. The audit must be performed in compliance with the latest revision of the following guidelines:

1. OMB Circular A-133
2. Standard for Audits of Government Organization, Programs, Activities and Function, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States
3. Audits of States and Local Government Units, Industry Audit guide issued by the American Institute of Public Accountants (AICPA)

The date of contract award will be no later than June 30, 2012. Audit work shall commence thereafter and must be completed by January 31, 2013.

The RFP Package and Scope-of-Work may be obtained, upon receipt of a non-refundable deposit from the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $ 100.00 for one set; at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-12-017, Financial and Compliance Audit for Fiscal Year Ending September 2012"to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST), local time, on May 29, 2012**. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

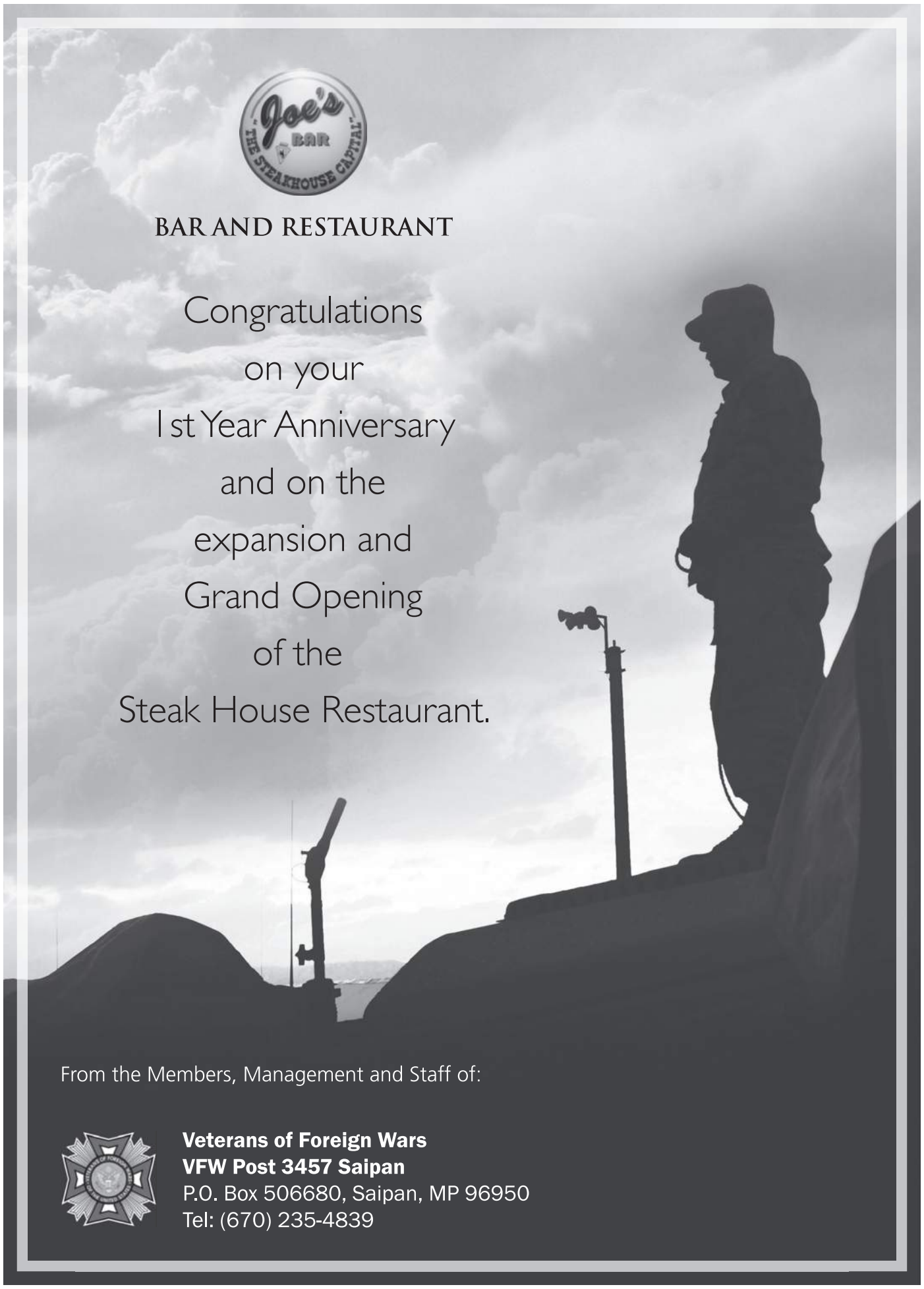
Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All inquiries regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 14, 2012 to Mr. Michael Pai, Public Auditor, Office of the Public Auditor, 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950; Mr. Charles Warren, CUC Chief Financial Officer, at email address charles_warren@cucgov.org; and Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer at email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reasons and to waive any defects in any proposals if, in its sole opinion, to do so will be in the best interest of the CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director



Nation

Adviser recounts Edwards' wife reacting to affair

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP)—A former adviser to John Edwards recounted Wednesday how the former presidential candidate's now-deceased wife indignantly confronted her husband, baring her chest in front of staff members the day after a tabloid reported that he was cheating on her.

During a session at Edwards' corruption trial that saw his 30-year-old daughter flee the courtroom in tears, Christina Reynolds described how a very upset Elizabeth Edwards stormed away from her husband in October 2007, then collapsed in a ball on the pavement outside a private airplane hangar. Reynolds and another woman guided the anguished wife into a nearby ladies room to compose herself, but she soon returned to the private hangar to again confront her husband.

In front of several staff members, the woman who had endured grueling treatments for breast cancer took off her shirt and bra, exposing her chest.

"'You don't see me anymore,'" Reynolds quoted Elizabeth Edwards as screaming. "He didn't have much of a reaction."

As staffers scrambled to cover up Edwards' wife and huddle her into a car, Reynolds heard the Democratic candidate use a cell phone to call his wife's doctor to ask for help.

Edwards

Edwards then boarded a waiting jet and took off for his scheduled appearance in South Carolina, Reynolds said.

She testified that Elizabeth Edwards had known about her husband's affair with Rielle Hunter before The National Enquirer made it public. Hers was the most stirring testimony of the day at Edwards' trial on corruption charges, as prosecutors worked to build a timeline of the affair and efforts to cover it up.

Shortly before Reynolds began her account of what happened that day at the Raleigh airport, Edwards turned to his daughter Cate, a lawyer who has been seated in the front row for much of her father's trial.

"I don't know what's coming," Edwards was heard saying. "Do you want to leave?"

She responded to him in a whisper, grabbed her purse and walked out, wiping away tears. Edwards was heard saying, "Cate, Cate" as she left. She returned to court about a half hour later, after a brief recess.

Shortly before her testimony about the airport argument, Reynolds recounted that Elizabeth Edwards asked her over to the couple's gated estate near Chapel Hill in the summer of 2007 to tell her that her husband had confessed to an affair the prior year.

"I was very surprised by what she told me and I didn't want it to ever become public so the kids wouldn't have to know about it," the former aide said.

Reynolds, now 37, had worked on John Edwards' successful U.S. senate campaign in 1998 and had quickly bonded with his wife. Both women grew up in military families and had moved around a lot as children. Reynolds worked as the research director and a senior communications adviser to the 2008 presidential campaign and recently joined the board of the educational foundation named for Elizabeth Edwards, who died in December of 2010.

Edwards has pleaded not guilty to six counts related to campaign-finance violations. He faces up to 30 years in prison and $1.5 million in fines if convicted on all counts.

REPUBLICAN PARTY
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Republican Party of the Northern Mariana Islands Association (RPNMIA) invites all its Proud Members to the

General Membership Meeting

WHERE:
Party Chairman Benigno R. Fitial's Residence in Navy Hill

DATE: **Sunday, May 6, 2012**

TIME: **4:00 p.m.**

Paid for by the Republican Party of the NMI Association.

Gingrich ends his campaign; urges party to back Romney

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—Newt Gingrich, the colorful former House speaker and fiery partisan, formally exited the Republican presidential contest Wednesday and vowed to help Mitt Romney's bid to defeat President Barack Obama.

Ending a campaign that seesawed between implosion and frontrunner and back again, Gingrich threw his support to his one-time rival as expected and promised his supporters he would continue to push conservative ideas. Gingrich bowed out of the race more than $4 million in debt and his reputation perhaps damaged.

"Today, I am suspending the campaign. But suspending the campaign does not mean suspending citizenship," Gingrich told a ballroom in a suburban Washington hotel.

"We are now going to put down the role of candidate and candidate's spouse and take back the role of active citizens," he said, adding he would continue to promote conservative ideas on college campuses, as well as through newsletters and films.

He also urged conservatives to rally behind Romney as a better alternative than Obama.

"This is not a choice between Mitt Romney and Ronald Reagan. This is a choice between Mitt Romney and the most radical, leftist president in American history," Gingrich said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police: Junior Seau found dead at California home

OCEANSIDE, Calif. (AP)—Junior Seau, a homegrown superstar who was the fist-pumping, emotional leader of the San Diego Chargers for 13 years, was found shot to death at his home Wednesday morning in what police said appeared to be a suicide. He was 43. Police Chief Frank McCoy said Seau's girlfriend reported finding him unconscious with a gunshot wound to the chest and lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful. A gun was found near him, McCoy said. Police said no suicide note was found and they didn't immediately know who the gun was registered to.

Police: 5 dead in shooting at Phoenix-area home

GILBERT, Ariz. (AP)—Five people died in a shooting Wednesday at a Phoenix-area home, where the investigation is being slowed by concerns there could be hazardous materials in 55-gallon drums in the backyard. The shooter is among the dead, police said, although they're not yet certain whether he killed himself. Police haven't identified him or the victims. The bodies—including that of a toddler—are still in the home in the city of Gilbert southeast of Phoenix. Officials are testing an unknown liquid in drums in the backyard as a precautionary measure.

13 charged in hazing death of Fla. band member

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Thirteen people were charged Wednesday in one of the biggest college hazing cases ever prosecuted in the U.S., accused in the death of a Florida A&M University drum major who authorities say was mercilessly pummeled by fellow members of the marching band. The charges came more than five months after Robert Champion, 26, died aboard a chartered bus parked outside an Orlando hotel following a performance against a rival school.

World

Fierce clashes stoke tensions ahead of Egypt vote

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's worst violence in months escalated the confrontation between political forces and the ruling military ahead of a landmark presidential election, as suspected army supporters attacked mainly Islamist protesters outside the Defense Ministry Wednesday, sparking clashes that left at least 11 people dead.

AP

An Egyptian medic helps a wounded man during clashes outside the Defense Ministry in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, May 2, 2012.

Political parties swiftly blamed the ruling generals for the bloodshed and vowed the election must go ahead as planned to ensure the military's removal from power.

Egypt has been plagued by sporadic bouts of deadly violence since the ouster of longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak last year, but Wednesday's killings took on added significance, coming just three weeks ahead of the presidential election. The killings also provided opponents of the military with more evidence the generals who took over from Mubarak are badly bungling the shift to democratic rule and acting much like their former mentor.

"We blame the military council for the bloodshed," Islamist lawmaker Osama Yassin of the Muslim Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party told state television.

Around 1,000 protesters have been camped outside the Defense Ministry for days demanding an end to military rule. Most are supporters of disqualified presidential candidate Hazem Salah Abu Ismail, an ultraconservative Islamist barred from running because his late mother held dual Egyptian-U.S. citizenship, making him ineligible under election laws.

Tsunami-swept Harley in container found in Canada

TOKYO (AP)—It must have been a wild ride. Japanese media say a Harley-Davidson motorcycle lost in last year's tsunami has washed up on a Canadian island about 6,400 kilometers (4,000 miles) away.

The rusted bike was found in a large white container where its owner, Ikuo Yokoyama, had kept it. He was located through the license plate number, Fuji TV reported Wednesday.

"This is unmistakably mine. It's miraculous," Yokoyama told Nippon TV when shown photos of the motorcycle.

Yokoyama lost three members of his family in the March 11, 2011, tsunami, and is now living in temporary housing in Miyagi prefecture (state).

The motorcycle is among the first items lost in the tsunami to reach the west coast of North America. In March, an Alaska man found a football and later a volleyball from Japan; their owners were located last week using names that had been inscribed on the balls.

Canadian Peter Mark, who found the bike and its container, told Fuji that he "couldn't believe that something like that would make it across the Pacific." The report said he found it April 18 on Graham Island, off the coast of British Columbia.

The motorcycle was caked with "a lot of corrosion, a lot of rust," said Mark.

When he saw the Japanese license plate, Mark wondered if it might have drifted from Japan after the tsunami, and contacted a local TV station.

The Fuji report said the motorcycle would be shipped back to Japan, and that the shop that sold it to Yokoyama would help with paperwork and storage.

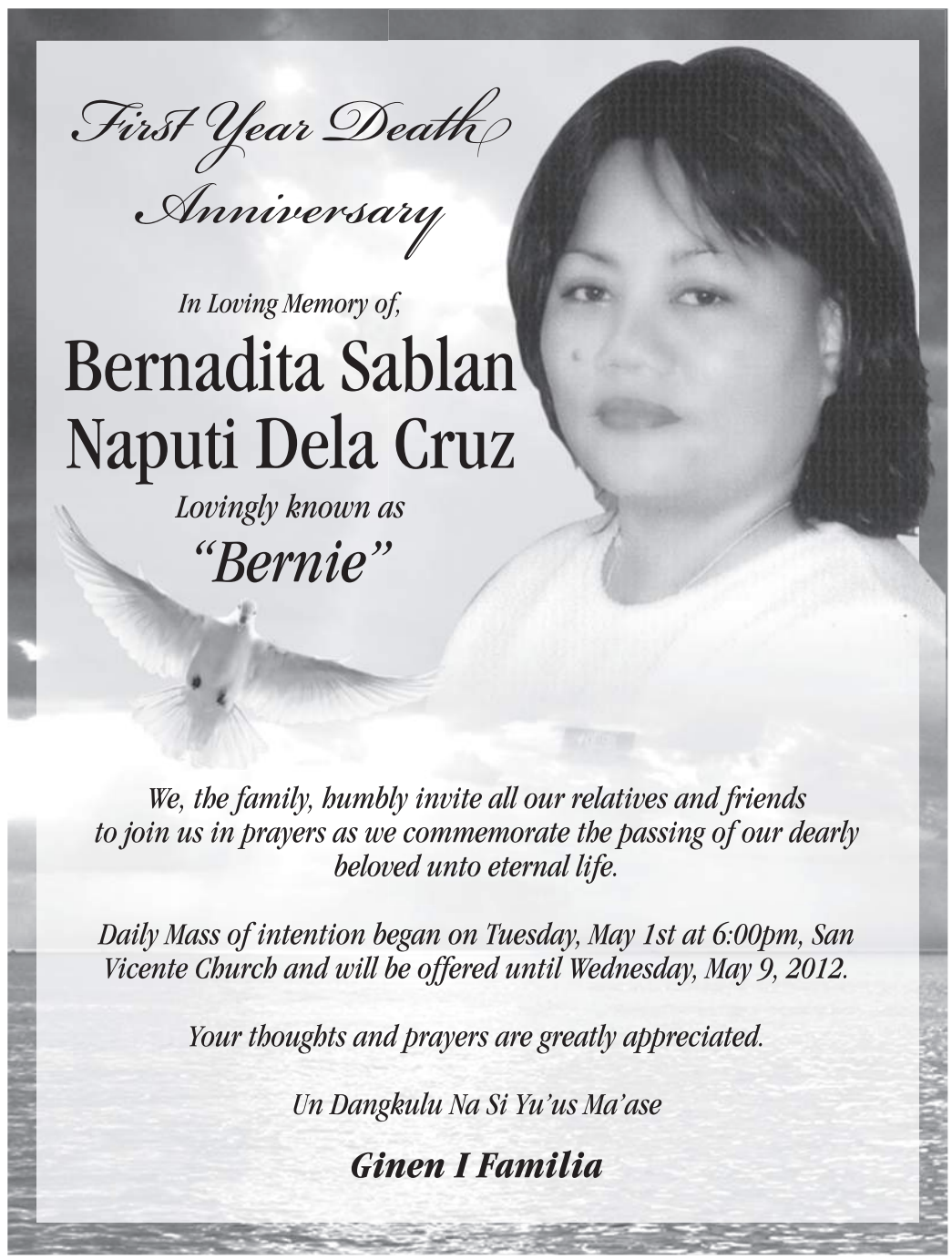
WORLD BRIEFS

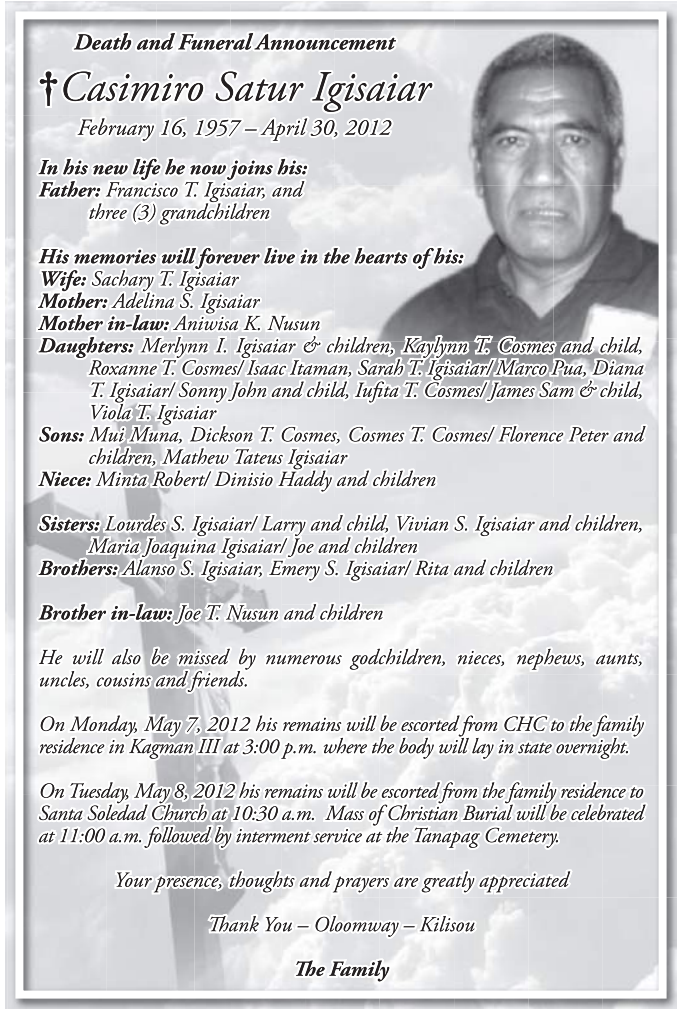
US-China talks overshadowed by activist's plight

BEIJING (AP)—Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton told China on Thursday that it must protect human rights, in remarks that rejected Beijing's criticism of the U.S. for getting involved in the case of a blind dissident whose fate overshadowed the opening of annual talks between the powerful countries. Her comments came as the dissident, Chen Guangcheng, pleaded for more help from Washington. The blind, self-taught lawyer took refuge in the U.S. Embassy after escaping house arrest, but left Wednesday to get treatment for a leg injury at a Beijing hospital. He initially said he had been assured that he would be safe in China, but hours later he said he fears for his family's safety unless they are all spirited abroad. He also claimed U.S. officials abandoned him at the hospital, which they denied.

NKorea said to jam signals used on SKorean flights

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean official says jamming signals from North Korea have affected 250 civilian flights in and out of South Korea. Seoul's Transport Ministry said Tuesday the signals have interfered with GPS on flights since Saturday. The planes have relied on alternate navigation systems to prevent trouble. Lee Kyung-woo of Seoul's Korea Communications Commission says the signals appear to have come from the North Korean border town of Kaesong. South Korean officials accused North Korea of similar jamming in 2010 and 2011. South Korea's Defense Ministry says its military hasn't been affected.


First Year Death Anniversary
In Loving Memory of,
Bernadita Sablan Naputi Dela Cruz
Lovingly known as
"Bernie"
We, the family, humbly invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the passing of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.
Daily Mass of intention began on Tuesday, May 1st at 6:00pm, San Vicente Church and will be offered until Wednesday, May 9, 2012.
Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia


Death and Funeral Announcement
†Casimiro Satur Igisaiar
February 16, 1957 – April 30, 2012
In his new life he now joins his:
Father: Francisco T. Igisaiar, and three (3) grandchildren
His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Wife: Sachary T. Igisaiar
Mother: Adelina S. Igisaiar
Mother in-law: Aniwisa K. Nusun
Daughters: Merlynn I. Igisaiar & children, Kaylynn T. Cosmes and child, Roxanne T. Cosmes/ Isaac Itaman, Sarah T. Igisaiar/ Marco Pua, Diana T. Igisaiar/ Sonny John and child, Iufita T. Cosmes/ James Sam & child, Viola T. Igisaiar
Sons: Mui Muna, Dickson T. Cosmes, Cosmes T. Cosmes/ Florence Peter and children, Mathew Tateus Igisaiar
Niece: Minta Robert/ Dinisio Haddy and children
Sisters: Lourdes S. Igisaiar/ Larry and child, Vivian S. Igisaiar and children, Maria Joaquina Igisaiar/ Joe and children
Brothers: Alanso S. Igisaiar, Emery S. Igisaiar/ Rita and children
Brother in-law: Joe T. Nusun and children
He will also be missed by numerous godchildren, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.
On Monday, May 7, 2012 his remains will be escorted from CHC to the family residence in Kagman III at 3:00 p.m. where the body will lay in state overnight.
On Tuesday, May 8, 2012 his remains will be escorted from the family residence to Santa Soledad Church at 10:30 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by interment service at the Tanapag Cemetery.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated
Thank You – Oloomway – Kilisou
The Family

In Loving Memory
Florentina M. Lomasang
Date of Birth - October 20, 1945
DOD – May 1, 2012
Nightly Rosary will be said at 7:30pm at Kanat Tabla residence until Thursday, May 10, 2012.
Viewing and last respects will be on May 4, 2012 at 9:00am, and the mass of Christian Burial at 11:00am at Kristo Rai Church, followed by the Interment at Tanapag Cemetery.
Your presence, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated.
From
Family and Friends

Off The Wall

Elephant plays tunes on harmonica at National Zoo

WASHINGTON (AP)—An elephant named Shanthi at the Smithsonian's National Zoo plays a harmonica with her trunk and appears to love doing it.

Video released Wednesday by the zoo in Washington shows the 36-year-old Asian elephant has a harmonica attached to her stall and plays tunes even when no humans are within view.

Elephant keeper Debbie Flinkman said Shanthi is "musically inclined," playing her own songs that always have a big crescendo at the end. Shanthi also likes to tap things, flap her ears against objects to make noise and rub her leg up and down shrubs to repeat noises.

"It is very good enrichment, especially for this specific elephant" because she is so interested, Flinkman said. Other elephants may notice the harmonica but are less interested.

Shanthi will play for several minutes at a time, exhaling to play a pattern, then inhaling for a different sound and moving to another end of the harmonica for a different note. Each time, she ends with a big exhale for a loud sound. After New Year's Day, she also played a plastic party horn that Flinkman brought to her for hours, blowing it as loud as she could. "It sounded like she was strangling a goose," Flinkman said.

Handheld harmonicas have been used with the elephants for years, but the zoo only recently added an activity wall where they could permanently mount two harmonicas for Shanthi to use on her own. Flinkman said she doesn't reward Shanthi when she plays on her own. It's something she enjoys.

Sometimes Shanthi will lower her ear to be closer to the sound.

"I try really hard to stay out of her line of sight because I don't want her to cue off of me," Flinkman said of Shanthi's music. "It just really amuses us. And I absolutely love it that it amuses her."

Shanthi was a gift from Sri Lanka in 1976 and is the mother of the zoo's 10-year-old calf Kandula.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Student left in cell for 4 days files $20M claim

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Attorneys for a San Diego college student forgotten in a federal holding cell without food, water or a toilet for four days has filed a $20 million claim against the Drug Enforcement Administration. Daniel Chong's lawyers sent the five-page notice Wednesday to the DEA's chief counsel in Washington. It says Chong's treatment constitutes torture under the law and seeks damages for pain and suffering, future medical and psychiatric treatment, and loss of future earnings. The move is a required precursor to a lawsuit, and the $20 million figure is the maximum Chong and his lawyers would seek. The DEA issued a statement Wednesday apologizing for the ordeal that began when Chong was caught in a drug sweep.

Ala. police dept. has 2 UAVs, but they aren't used

GADSDEN, Ala. (AP)—An Alabama police chief says he recently discovered that his department has two unmanned aerial vehicles. Gadsden Police Chief John Crane tells The Gadsden Times he learned two weeks ago the department has had the unmanned aerial vehicles since 2010. The revelation came to light after the Federal Aviation Administration released a list of agencies certified to fly drones and unmanned aerial vehicles. The Gadsden Police Department was on the list. Crane, who was named police chief in February, says he doesn't know why they were purchased. The cost was about $150,000, paid through a federal law enforcement grant.

Mass. woman balks at paying old $73 debt to NJ

AMESBURY, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts woman who got a bill for $73 from the state of New Jersey for a decades-old debt says she has no intention of paying. Alice Mainville, of Amesbury, got a letter recently telling her she owes New Jersey's Department of Labor $73 because it gave her too much money in an unemployment check 35 years ago. Mainville tells the Daily News of Newburyport she collected unemployment during a labor dispute at the bakery where she worked when she was 17. Mainville, who moved to Massachusetts after high school, says she won't pay because New Jersey officials have not explained how they concluded she owes the money.

Tenn. police arrest man for paying with real $50

SHELBYVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Tennessee police are apologizing after arresting a man for using a $50 bill they thought was fake but that turned out to be real. Police in Shelbyville thought the bill was counterfeit after a convenience store clerk called them. The clerk said a marker used to detect false money didn't show the bill was real. The Shelbyville Times-Gazette reported Officer Brock Horner arrested Lorenzo Gaspar on Friday. But a police evidence technician told the arresting officer that some old bills don't react to the markers. So police gave the money to two banks to check, and they said it was real but just very old. Gaspar was released from jail and police apologized to him.

Bad dog to get new life as La. prison guard

NEW ROADS, La. (AP)—The bad dog of the neighborhood has received a life prison sentence. The wolf dog hybrid named Chief—once ordered destroyed for aggressive behavior—will become a guard dog at Louisiana's maximum security prison. The Advocate reports that District Judge James Best on Tuesday signed an order turning over Chief to the state prison system, which plans to put the dog to work at the Louisiana State Penitentiary. Best had ordered euthanasia for Chief last month after his neighbors in Pointe Coupee Parish testified that the dog would frequently escape from his owners' property and terrorize them.

1958 postcard mailed from Chicago finally arrives

CHICAGO (AP)—A postcard mailed from Chicago in 1958 has finally reached its intended recipient, but not without a little help from Facebook. The Chicago Sun-Times reports that a postcard depicting Shedd Aquarium recently arrived at Scott McMurry's Virginia home, more than five decades after his mom mailed it. The 71-year-old says he immediately recognized his mother's handwriting. The postcard was addressed to Clairmont Lane in Decatur, Georgia, where McMurry grew up. But it recently arrived in Elizabeth Fulcher's mailbox on Clairmont Lane in South Daytona, Florida. Fulcher posted a picture of the postcard on Facebook and her friends helped track down McMurry.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms
(Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST, Plaintiff,	]	**Civil Action No. 11-0264**
vs.	]	**AMENDED SUMMONS**
CATHERINE B. PANGELINAN-SALAS and JOSEPH S. SALAS, Defendants.	]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS CATHERINE B. PANGELINAN-SALAS and JOSEPH S. SALAS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT within twenty (20) days after service of this AMENDED SUMMONS upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI Superior Court, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this AMENDED SUMMONS, judgment by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint for Foreclosure.

SO ORDERED on this 27th day of April, 2012.

/s/ CLERK OF COURT

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Administratrix Margarita Mendiola Reyes

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF:	]	**Civil Action No. 11-0279**
EDWARD REYES MENDIOLA, Decedent.	]	

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR DECREE OF FINAL DISTRIBUTION

Date: May 24, 2012
Time: 1:30 pm
Judge: Honorable Robert C. Naraja

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE EDWARD REYES MENDIOLA:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that **Margarita Mendiola Reyes**, Administratrix of the Estate of Edward Reyes Mendiola, has filed with the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands a **Petition for Decree of Final Distribution**. The attorney for Administratrix is **Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950.**

The hearing on the Petition for Final Decree of Distribution has been set for the 24th day of May, 2012 at 1:30pm, at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing.

Dated this 23rd day of April, 2012.

Clerk of Court
/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DONALD W. BURCHER, Jr., Petitioner,	]	**FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 11-0443**
vs.	]	
DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER, Respondent.	]	

ORDER FOR RESPONDENT DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER TO APPEAR OR PLEAD

TO: DOROTHY JOY M. BURCHER

Pursuant to 7 CMC § 1301,YOU are hereby ORDERED to make a personal appearance before the Court or else to file any written response you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within twenty (20) days after publication of this Order in one of the two major daily newspapers in the Commonwealth. You are further directed to deliver or mail a copy of any responsive pleading that you file to Petitioner's attorney, Thomas E. Clifford, whose address is:

2nd Floor, Alexander Building,
San Jose
P.O. Box 506514
Saipan, MP 96950

as soon as practicable after filing. Any responsive pleading should be filed with Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. If you fail either to make a personal appearance or to file a written response in accordance with this Order, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief requested in the Complaint.

So ORDERED this 23rd day of January, 2012.

/s/ The Honorable PERRY B. INOS
Associate Judge

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff,	]	**Civil Action No. 99-0691**
vs.	]	**NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION**
JOSEPH M. MANGLONA and BLANCA P. MANGLONA Defendants.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that pursuant to an Order issued by this Court on January 23, 2012, in which the undersigned was Ordered to levy, execute and sell, in accordance with law, a parcel of real property, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, Defendants' interest in and to the following real property situated in Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as described below.

Lot No. 008 T 25, containing an area of 900 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on drawing/cadastral plat no. 008 T 01, dated January 07, 1988 at the Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale: The sale, open to the general public (including the Defendants), will be held on **Friday, May 25, 2012, at 11:00 a.m.,** at the Tinian Superior Court entrance, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 3rd day of May, 2012.

/s/ S. Joshua Berger, Auctioneer
Law Offices of S. Joshua Berger
Tel. No.: (670)235-8060
e-mail : joshuaberger711@hotmail.com

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ROTA HARBOR PLANNING SERVICES

RFQ12-GOV-071

The Office of the Mayor and Rota Legislative Delegation are soliciting statements of professional qualifications ("RFQ") from engineering firms to prepare a feasibility study and conceptual design for the development of the East Harbor, on the Island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Island of Rota has a long history of an unsafe harbor entrance and berthing area that has hampered shipping and economic development. The legislative delegation of the Island of Rota seeks to explore the feasibility of the development of the Rota East Harbor in order to provide long-term solution to these issues.

Interested engineering firms are invited to submit statements of professional qualification. Proposals will be evaluated on experience and information presented in the following five areas:

1. Harbor planning, analysis, and design experience (25%);
2. Harbor construction permitting experience including but not limited to environmental assessment; United States Army Corps of Engineers; and local agency reviews (25%).
3. Financial and economic analysis experience (25%)
4. Proposed approach (25%)
5. Cost estimate for identified services (0%)

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal packet that can be obtained from the Office of Procurement & Supply. Proposal packets will be available on April 17, 2012 at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan Sablan Memorial Building - Capitol Hill (670-664-2375). All questions regarding the RFQ must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on April 25, 2012 to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670-664-2408).

This procurement is controlled by the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Procurement Regulations as contained in Title 70 of the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code. Selected contractor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and federal laws. All proposals must be sealed and marked RFQ12-GOV-071, Rota Harbor Feasibility Study" and include an original and five copies and must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2012 (ChST)to:

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Marianas Procurement & Supply - Lower Base
P.O. Box 510008 CK
Saipan, MP 96950

Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notice of Intent to Propose must identify firm; proposal number; location of registered corporate office of firm; identify intent to propose, be signed by authorized individual, and must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:30 pm May 21, 2012 (ChST) via facsimile (670-664-1515) or email at procurement@pticom.com For proposers located outside the CNMI, proposals must be postmarked by the United States Postal Service or the official government postal service of the site of corporate offices no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 22, 2012 (ChST) and must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:30 p.m. May 29, 2012 (CHST). Proposers bear all risk concerning providing proper notice and delivery. The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualifications for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest. For further information contact the Office of Capital Improvement 670-664-2375.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, CNMI Lt. Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply

Life & Style

'The Scream' fetches record $119.9M at NYC auction

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the art world's most recognizable images—Edvard Munch's "The Scream"—sold Wednesday for a record $119,922,500 at auction in New York City.

The 1895 artwork—a modern symbol of human anxiety—was sold at Sotheby's. Neither the buyer's name nor any details about the buyer was released.

The previous record for an artwork sold at auction was $106.5 million for Picasso's "Nude, Green Leaves, and Bust," sold by Christie's in 2010.

Munch's image of a man holding his head and screaming under a streaked, blood-red sky is one of four versions by the Norwegian expressionist painter. The auctioned piece at Sotheby's is the only one left in private hands.

The image has become part of pop culture, "used by everyone from Warhol to Hollywood to cartoons to teacups and T-shirts," said Michael Frahm of the London-based art advisory service firm Frahm Ltd. "Together with the Mona Lisa, it's the most famous and recognized image in art history."

A buzz swept through the room when the artwork was presented for auction as two guards stood watch on either side. Bidding started at $40 million with seven buyers jumping into the competition early.

The battle eventually boiled down to two phone bidders as the historic hammer price was finally achieved after more than 12 minutes. The record price includes the auction house's fee.

AP

In this undated photo provided by Sotheby's Auction House in New york, "The Scream," Edvard Munch is shown.

Sotheby's said the pastel-on-board version of "The Scream" is the most colorful and vibrant of the four and the only version whose frame was hand-painted by the artist to include his poem, detailing the work's inspiration.

In the poem, Munch described himself "shivering with anxiety" and said he felt "the great scream in nature."

Norwegian businessman Petter Olsen, whose father was a friend and patron of the artist, said he sold the piece through Sotheby's because he felt "the moment has come to offer the rest of the world the chance to own and appreciate this remarkable work."

"I have lived with this work all my life, and its power and energy have only increased with time," Olsen said.

Proceeds from the sale will go toward the establishment of a new museum, art center and hotel in Hvitsten, Norway, where Olsen's father and Munch were neighbors.

Olsen said he was pleased with the auction sale and hoped publicity surrounding it would increase public interest in Munch's work.

Simon Shaw of Sotheby's Impressionist and Modern Art Department in New York said, "If ever there was a work of art of true shock-and-awe, it was Edvard Munch's `The Scream.'"

The director of the National Museum in Oslo, Audun Eckhoff, says Norwegian authorities approved the Munch sale since the other versions of the composition are in Norwegian museums. One version is owned by the National Museum and two others by the Munch Museum, also in Oslo.

Frahm had predicted the sale would break a record. He said it will show that great quality artworks can still come up for sale; that the top end of the market is driving further away from the rest of the market and that it's a global market now where Asia and the Middle East are playing a more significant role than Europe and America.

A total of nine works now have sold for $80 million or more at auction, according to Sotheby's.

Besides "The Scream" and Picasso's "Nude, Green Leaves, and Bust," only two other works have sold for more than $100 million at auction. Those are Picasso's "Boy With a Pipe (The Young Apprentice)" for $104.1 million in 2004 and Alberto Giacometti's "Walking Man I" for $104.3 million in 2010.

Organ-donation groups thrilled at Facebook push

By MICHELLE HEALY AND BRETT MOLINA
USA TODAY

The organ donation community is applauding Facebook's announcement Tuesday that it will allow its 900 million members to share their donor status with friends and family, and to link to state databases where people in the USA can register online to officially become donors.

"This is great news. It has the potential to be one of the biggest campaigns to increase donor designation that we've ever seen," said John Green, community relations director for the Gift of Life Donor Program, based in Philadelphia.

"It's absolutely critical at this time when online communication and social media are really the way people are communicating," said Julia Rivera, director of communications for the New York Organ Donor Network.

In an interview on "Good Morning America" Tuesday, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg said the organ donation initiative was inspired by disasters such as last year's earthquake and tsunami in Japan and the social network's role in keeping people connected.

Zuckerberg also cited his girlfriend, Priscilla Chan, who is studying to become a pediatrician. "Our dinner conversations are often about Facebook and kids, and the kids that she's meeting," he said. "She'll see them getting sicker, then, all of a sudden, an organ becomes available, and she comes home and her face is all lit up because someone's life is going to be better because of this."

Facebook is partnering with Donate Life America, a national umbrella organization for local groups working to increase the number of registered organ, eye and tissue donors.

Nearly 114,000 men, women and children are currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant, said the organization's Aisha Huertas Michel. Thousands more are in need of tissue or corneal transplants to resume normal lives or restore sight, she said.

"We're hoping people will be excited about the initiative and it will prompt them to take the next step and register to be a donor," Michel said.

Only about 43 percent of U.S. adults have signed up to be an organ donor through a state registry—often accessed through their state Department of Motor Vehicles and listed on their driver's licenses.

Facebook's initiative will "help bring out the conversation about organ donation," said Jeffrey Punch, chief of transplantation surgery at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

"The vast majority of people understand that it's a good thing and want to donate," he said, but for various reasons have never officially registered.

Ashton Kutcher ad is called racist, yanked offline

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An online ad featuring Ashton Kutcher as an Indian man has been pulled offline after viewers called it racist.

Kutcher

The images and video for Popchips feature the 34-year-old "Two and a Half Men" star in brown makeup portraying a Bollywood producer named Raj who is "looking for love." They were removed from YouTube and Facebook after being criticized online.

Other videos featuring Kutcher as a stoner, tattooed Southerner and pasty fashionista remain online.

A spokeswoman for Popchips says the dating parody featuring the four characters was "created to provoke a few laughs and was never intended to stereotype or offend anyone." She added that the company hopes "people can enjoy this in the spirit it was intended."

A spokeswoman for Kutcher hasn't return messages seeking comment.

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Marvel's The Avengers
Friday 4:10 7:10 9:55
Saturday 1:10 4:10 7:10 9:55
Sunday 1:10 4:10 7:10
Monday thru Thursday 4:10 7:10
Robert Downey, Jr., Chris Evans, Samuel L. Jackson
Action • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
Marvel Studios delivers the ultimate comic-book production, tying such characters as Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr.), Captain America (Chris Evans), The Hulk (Mark Ruffalo), and Thor (Chris Hemsworth) together for a big-screen franchise team-up like no other. Show runner Joss Whedon (Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Firefly) adapts and helms the script by Zak Penn, with a supporting cast that includes Samuel L. Jackson and Jeremy Renner.

Pirates! Band of Misfits
Friday 4:05 7:05 9:45
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:45
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Monday thru Thursday 4:05 7:05
Hugh Grant, Brendan Gleeson
Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
Set sail for fun with this family-friendly Aardman Animations adventure following a bumbling, abundantly bearded scallywag who competes against his two biggest rivals for the title Pirate of the Year. Try as he might, the Pirate Captain (Hugh Grant) just can't be taken seriously as a plunderer. But that might change if he could only manage to win the Pirate of the Year competition. As the event gets under way, the Pirate Captain makes it his mission to leave dreaded foes Black Bellamy (Jeremy Piven) and Cutlass Liz (Salma Hayek) sinking in his wake.

Safe
Friday 4:30 7:30 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:30 7:30 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:30 7:30
Monday thru Thursday 4:30 7:30
Jason Statham, Catherine Chan
Crime • Rated R

The Five Year Engagement
Friday 4:15 7:15 9:50
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:15 9:50
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:15
Monday thru Thursday 4:15 7:15
Jason Segel, Emily Blunt
Comedy • Rated R

The Lucky One
Friday 4:25 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:25
Monday thru Thursday 4:25 7:25
Zac Efron, Taylor Schilling
Drama • Rated PG 13

Three Stooges
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:20 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:20 4:20 7:20
Monday thru Thursday 4:20 7:20
Will Sasso, Sean Hayes, Chris Diamantopoulos
Comedy • Rated PG

The Hunger Games
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Monday thru Thursday 4:00 7:00
Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson
Science fiction • Rated PG 13

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Joshua Ledet again earns rave reviews on 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The judges on "American Idol" definitely love somebody, and his name is Joshua Ledet.

While the panel lauded each of the five finalists remaining in the Fox singing competition, the judges once again reserved the most praise during Wednesday's installment for the powerful 20-year-old gospel singer from Westlake, La.

Ledet wowed the panel during the 1960s-themed first round with The Temptations' "Ain't Too Proud To Beg," and then nearly brought judge Jennifer Lopez to tears with his restrained rendition of the Bee Gees' "To Love Somebody" during the second round of British pop tunes.

Randy Jackson, the "Idol" veteran, called Ledet "one of the best singers ever on this show." Lopez took the compliment further, telling Ledet, "I think you're one of the best singers I've seen in 50 years."

Hollie Cavanagh, the 18-year-old balladeer from McKinney, Texas, opened the show with a sensational version of Ike and Tina Turner's "River Deep Mountain High," and later dialed it down with the Leona Lewis hit "Bleeding Love." Steven Tyler admitted he wasn't familiar with the chart-topper but insisted that Cavanagh "nailed it."

"You've been the dark horse all season," Jackson said. "For me, you're two-for-two tonight."

AP

In this April 25, 2012 photo released by Fox, contestant Josh Ledet performs on the singing competition series "American Idol," in Los Angeles.

Phillip Phillips attempted a divergent musical strategy, first ditching the melody on The Box Tops' "The Letter," then later crooning it on The Zombies' "Time of the Season." The judges deemed the bluesy 21-year-old pawn shop worker successful on both fronts.

"You're so compelling to watch," said Lopez. "I wanna get up on my feet when you're done."

Skylar Laine, the 18-year-old country rocker from Brandon, Miss., imbued Creedence Clearwater Revival's "Fortunate Son" with her twangy sensibilities before packing an emotional punch with Dusty Springfield's "Say You Love Me," despite an odd set piece that featured a couple sitting on a fake park bench on stage.

"I'm transfixed on everything you're doing," Jackson told Laine.

The judges were also taken with Jessica "Bebe Chez" Sanchez, the wannabe 16-year-old diva from San Diego, and her candle-lit version of Joe Cocker's "You Are So Beautiful." Not everyone on the panel was as floored with her prior decision to take on Ike and Tina Turner's "Proud Mary."

"It didn't really quite sit with me," lamented Jackson.

Between the individual performances, the finalists were divided for a duet and a trio: Phillips and Ledet, which Tyler called "a match made in heaven," paired up for the Rightous Brothers' "You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin'" while Sanchez, Cavanagh and Laine got together for a rendition of Jackie Wilson's "Higher and Higher" that Lopez deemed "so cute."

One of the five singers will be eliminated from the competition Thursday.

Jackson steps fully into Nick Fury in 'Avengers'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—After popping up in cameos during the credits of Marvel films as the authoritative, eye-patch-wearing Nick Fury, Samuel L. Jackson steps fully into his role as the head of peacekeeping agency S.H.I.E.L.D. in "The Avengers."

He assembles the super-crew of Iron Man, Thor, Captain America, Black Widow, the Incredible Hulk and Hawkeye as part of his "Avengers Initiative" to help fight Thor's brother, Loki, who threatens to wipe out humanity. The film hits U.S. theaters Friday.

"It's great to stand there and look around and go OK, these guys are actually here so we do have the Avengers," Jackson said during a recent interview. "(Director and writer) Joss (Whedon) is so savvy about the genre and how to flesh characters out so it's not just a set piece fest of stuff blowing up and people chasing each other... There's sadness, there's joy, there's fear, there's all this stuff that goes into making this film that makes it sort of special, way more special than it could have been."

Jackson will reprise his character in the next "Captain America" film, which starts shooting in January, but he's unsure of Nick Fury's fate beyond that. Could his origin story be in the works?

"I have no idea," he said. "I had a nine picture deal, I've only done five of them, so I guess so. It's possible."

The 63-year-old actor took a break from working with Quentin Tarantino on "Django Unchained" to promote "The Avengers." And while he stayed mum on the project ("It's another non-disclosure thing"), he said he has no problem shifting gears from Tarantino's dramatic Western tale to the superhero world.

"It's like this: When I go to work in the morning, I'm this guy. And when I come out of the makeup trailer and I have a big scar on my face and a patch on my eye and I've got a whole goatee, I'm a whole new person. I don't even have to think about it," he said. "And when I go to work for Quentin, the same thing happens: I go in the makeup trailer and I come out another guy.

"It's a whole other mind state ... If I'm not sitting there looking in the mirror at my character, I don't have to worry about it."

Eli Manning prepares to host 'Saturday Night Live'

NEW YORK (AP)—Eli Manning sensed his brother's shadow even as a comedic actor.

"Saturday Night Live" producers invited the New York Giants quarterback to host after he won his first Super Bowl in 2008. One of the many reasons he declined was that Peyton Manning had hosted the show a year earlier after his own championship.

"Peyton had done so well the previous year, I thought it might be a little fresh in everyone's minds," Eli said Wednesday. "I did not want to have to go up against a tough competition and the great job that he performed."

Manning recalled he sent word back that perhaps he'd host if he won another title. Sure enough, he said yes after his second ring and will star in the late-night sketches this Saturday.

"I had not proven myself as much as I wanted to," he said of that initial offer four years ago.

Manning and SNL chief Lorne Michaels took part in a conference call Wednesday, hours before the quarterback would start acting out 40-45 skits to whittle down to 12 or 13 to be potentially performed in front of that live television audience.

He made the short trip into Manhattan from Hoboken, N.J., on Monday and Tuesday afternoon to meet with writers and cast members at NBC's Rockefeller Center studios. Wednesday afternoon would be the first time Manning saw the scripts and rehearsed, and he was eager to get going.

He sat in the audience, laughing along, when Peyton hosted in 2007, an episode that included a memorable sketch lampooning the NFL's United Way commercials. Eli sought his brother's advice before accepting his own invitation.

Peyton told him: "The one thing you are used to doing is live—that's something you do every week during the football season."

"We know how Eli reacts both under pressure and also with changing things quickly," Michaels said. "I don't think we're making any other kinds of concession because it's an athlete over an actor, comedian or singer—or politician, for that matter."

John Madden, who hosted in 1982, called Manning on Wednesday and offered the same counsel that Peyton did, encouraging him to savor working with the writers and cast members during the week. Eli said he and his brother were comfortable poking fun at themselves.

"The good thing about `Saturday Night Live' is you can come in and maybe express the different sides that people don't see," he said. "Maybe that's not you at all times, but for this night you can kind of let loose."

The Mannings grew up watching SNL, and Eli said he owned several "Best of" DVDs for former cast members, particularly liking the clips of their auditions for the show.

Bird man excluded from town festival tries not to squawk

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I am a professional ornithologist (bird expert) with a substantial record of accomplishments—books, scientific papers, blog, website, consultant work, etc.

My hometown has held a bird festival for more than a decade and each year it features a main speaker at the dinner. My expertise and experience far outshine that of any of the speakers they have invited by a considerable margin. I am well-known in town, but have not been asked to speak.

I talked to the festival board members, and they say I haven't been deliberately excluded, but they didn't give me any reason why I have been ignored. There's no history of bad feelings, but I'm starting to develop some now. It feels like a personal and professional snub. How do I respond?

UNAPPRECIATED IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNAPPRECIATED: You're not alone with this dilemma. To paraphrase a verse from the Bible (which also sounds like Rodney Dangerfield), "A prophet is without honor in his own hometown."

Because the festival board members have been made aware that you are qualified and would like to be a speaker, it's time to step back. Make other plans for when the festival is held. It's possible your absence may make their hearts grow fonder. However, if it doesn't, at least you won't be sitting at home and brooding. (Sorry, I couldn't resist.)

■■■

DEAR ABBY: When my husband and I have a private argument, he shares our problems with our 11-year-old daughter when I am not around. Later, she will tell me she sides with him about our argument.

I feel my husband should not involve our daughter in our disagreements. It makes me feel betrayed. How should I deal with this issue?

VIOLATED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR VIOLATED: You married a man who appears to be manipulative and not above using your daughter to "get to you." I agree he shouldn't discuss your disagreements with her—not because it's a betrayal, but because it's unfair that she is being put in the middle.

Because there are problems the two of you can't resolve, they should be talked out with a licensed marriage counselor, not a child. If your husband refuses to go, you definitely should go without him.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: We love our son-in-law, "Chip," but not his family. Family get-togethers are very strained because they drink—a lot.

Chip's brother has given beer to his 3-year-old and no one says anything. I find it appalling and a form of child abuse. Chip's brother is a know-it-all, sarcastic and rude. I am worried about my grandson spending any time with them. My daughter has also made her concerns known to Chip, but nothing changes. Should I stay out of this?

TEETOTALING GRANDMA

DEAR GRANDMA: Much as you might wish to, neither you nor your daughter is going to change the behavior of a belligerent drunk, which Chip's brother appears to be. Because alcohol impairs his judgment to the extent that he's giving liquor to his 3-year-old and the child's mother allows it, someone should contact child protective services and ask what can be done. I recommend that you do it soon, because giving alcohol to a minor is not only against the law, but could make the child sick or create a dependency.

As to your grandson, the boy should never be around his aunt and uncle unless there is strict supervision.

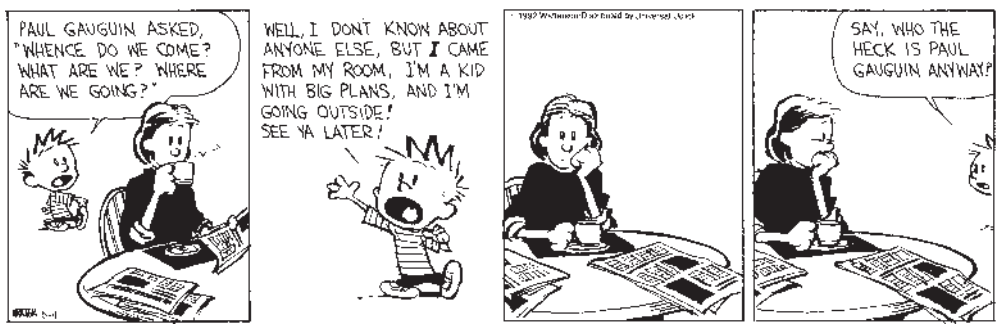
■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


PAUL GAUGUIN ASKED, "WHENCE DO WE COME? WHAT ARE WE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?"
WELL, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT ANYONE ELSE, BUT I CAME FROM MY ROOM. I'M A KID WITH BIG PLANS, AND I'M GOING OUTSIDE! SEE YA LATER!
SAY, WHO THE HECK IS PAUL GAUGUIN ANYWAY?

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By Jim Davis

YOU KNOW, JON, PEOPLE WITH PETS LIVE LONGER
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JIM DAVIS 5-4

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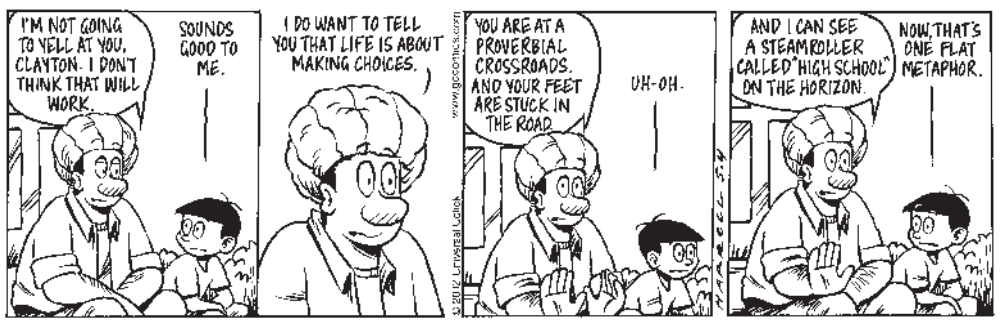
By Bryan Basset


I'M NOT GOING TO YELL AT YOU, CLAYTON. I DON'T THINK THAT WILL WORK.
SOUNDS GOOD TO ME.
I DO WANT TO TELL YOU THAT LIFE IS ABOUT MAKING CHOICES.
YOU ARE AT A PROVERBIAL CROSSROADS. AND YOUR FEET ARE STUCK IN THE ROAD.
UH-OH.
AND I CAN SEE A STEAMROLLER CALLED "HIGH SCHOOL" ON THE HORIZON.
NOW, THAT'S ONE FLAT METAPHOR.
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

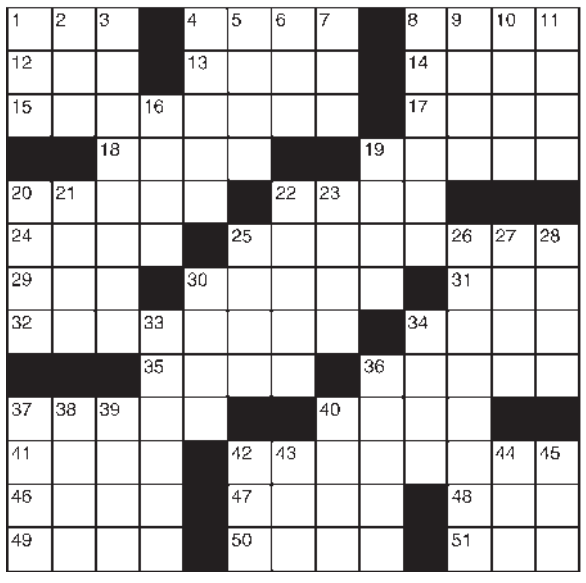
ACROSS
1 Geological time
4 Nibble
8 Actress Helgenberger
12 Chap
13 Inflammation (Suff.)
14 Eight (Sp.)
15 Mess
17 Vincent van Gogh's brother
18 Choose
19 Winning
20 Win by —
22 Withered
24 Charged bits
25 3/17 symbol
29 Young fellow
30 Like Santa's laundry?
31 Shell-game need
32 Hair-salon supply
34 Birthmonth for some Leos
35 Tug hard
36 Actress Berry
37 Flower
40 Ranch visitor
41 Cavort
42 Like magic priests
46 Trendy berry
47 Game on horseback
48 — -Magnon
49 Lady of Spain
50 Mimic
51 — out a living

DOWN
1 Type squares
2 "Go, team!"
3 Big snake
4 Sacred text
5 "— have to do"
6 Dead heat
7 Curvy letter
8 Whistler subject
9 Rue the run
10 Comical Caroline
11 Suitable
16 Tousle
19 Legion
20 Has a bug
21 Early boatwright
22 Trembled
23 Comestibles
25 Any minute now
26 Wealth
27 Honeycomb compartment
28 Mitty portrayer
30 Unwanted email
33 Nearsightedness
34 — Pinkett Smith
36 Wit
37 Actor Pitt
38 Nutty
39 Muscat's nation
40 Valley
42 Hot tub
43 Leap
44 Annoy
45 Miler Sebastian

Solution time: 25 mins.

M	E	R	V	■	C	A	T	■	S	C	A	B
A	L	O	E	■	L	Y	E	■	T	O	T	O
R	I	O	T	■	E	E	R	■	A	R	M	Y
C	A	T	E	N	A	■	R	A	I	D	■	■
■	■	■	R	U	N	S	A	C	R	O	S	S
L	A	M	A	S	■	P	I	E	■	V	A	T
A	N	O	N	■	P	F	N	■	S	A	G	A
I	N	N	■	P	A	N	■	T	E	N	O	R
C	O	U	N	T	Y	D	O	W	N	■	■	■
■	■	■	M	E	A	L	■	M	O	A	N	E	D
A	L	E	E	■	O	N	E	■	T	A	X	I
S	E	N	D	■	A	U	G	■	O	V	E	R
P	I	T	Y	■	D	N	A	■	R	E	S	T

Yesterday's answer 5-4



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99c per minute. touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Lance Bass, 33; Will Arnett, 42; Ana Gasteyer, 45; Randy Travis, 53.

Happy Birthday: Being specific and having your paperwork in order will help you convince others to take part in your plan. Stick to what you know and avoid making last-minute changes. Discipline and stability will drive you to the finish line. Traveling and acquiring knowledge should be at the top of your to-do list. Your numbers are 2, 14, 18, 24, 35, 44, 47.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Love is on the rise. Discussing plans with your lover, a friend, relative or neighbor can rectify any problem before it has a chance to develop. Honesty, integrity and playing by the rules will lead to your success. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Pick up a hobby or get involved in a group or event that will help you expand your interests or your financial future. Don't let responsibilities limit you, but do engage in pursuits that can stabilize your personal life. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Take pride in what you do. Love is on the rise, and talking about the way you feel and what your intentions are will help you build a stronger relationship with someone special. A money deal must be handled carefully. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): A change to one of your relationships will leave you wondering what happened. A secret you were keeping probably instigated the problem. Backtracking now will take ingenuity, honesty and sacrifice in order to keep the relationship equal. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Communication will be key when dealing with others. Your ability to tie things together and make sense out of something that may confuse others will help you win the support you need professionally and the love and affection you want personally. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Visit someone you respect or who can offer you knowledge, wisdom or food for thought. Expand your awareness and you'll discover a way to overcome an obstacle that has been holding you back. Don't let an emotional situation deter you. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take charge when it comes to your personal relationships. Don't leave anything to chance and be sure to make your intentions clear. Love is in the stars, and you can enhance our lifestyle by making positive personal moves. Make a commitment. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take care of pressing matters involving medical issues, institutions, government agencies or large corporations. A promise you fulfill will lead to a personal opportunity. Take on a project that will enhance your home and living arrangements. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You'll attract attention and make a difference in any organization or group to which you contribute. Love is in the stars, and discussing plans with someone special will bring positive results. A change at home will ease your stress. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Make positive changes to your home, but stick to your budget. Not everyone will be happy with your decisions, so you are best to get approval from neighbors or family before you move forward. Love is highlighted. ✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Size up your financial situation and find a way to decrease your debt. A relationship will help stabilize your personal life. A chance to make extra cash is apparent. Resurrect an old idea that you can refurbish to fit a growing need. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't get hung up on trivial matters. Look at the big picture and decide where you fit in. Anger will stand in the way of your success. Refrain from saying something that will incriminate you. Let experience be your guide. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are charming, clever and calculating. You are precise and goal-oriented.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7								4
	9	5				2	6	
			8		3			
8				1				2
	2	3		5		9	4	
9				4				5
			1		5			
	3	7				1	9	
1								3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	1	5	9	8	7	6	2	3
7	6	2	5	4	3	9	1	8
8	3	9	1	2	6	7	5	4
1	8	4	3	7	9	2	6	5
2	9	6	8	5	4	3	7	1
3	5	7	6	1	2	8	4	9
9	4	1	7	6	8	5	3	2
5	7	3	2	9	1	4	8	6
6	2	8	4	3	5	1	9	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/4

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAT BREEDS Solution: 11 letters

M	C	H	Y	S	R	E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C
B	I	A	M	O	I	U	R	E	N	I	A	M	B	O
O	R	N	C	R	R	B	V	I	T	S	L	S	E	R
M	M	N	S	O	E	K	E	E	W	O	Ⓡ	L	N	N
B	Y	A	O	K	O	P	G	R	N	S	T	Ⓘ	G	I
A	C	V	K	Y	I	N	A	G	I	O	V	A	Ⓐ	S
Y	A	A	O	I	E	N	E	L	N	A	S	T	L	Ⓗ
C	R	S	K	R	A	O	A	K	N	N	N	E	I	N
I	U	C	E	V	H	R	I	K	I	T	N	R	A	E
T	P	S	A	S	O	N	E	L	A	O	U	M	I	B
O	A	H	W	L	E	D	A	C	G	S	R	X	E	R
X	G	O	O	S	I	M	I	E	S	E	I	B	L	O
E	N	C	E	S	O	C	R	U	G	P	B	A	U	W
S	I	A	I	S	O	O	O	U	D	E	V	O	N	N
B	S	E	M	N	A	M	R	I	B	T	A	B	B	Y

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Asian, Bengal, Bicolor, Birman, Bob, Bombay, Brown, Burmese, Calico, Chocolate, Coon, Cornish, Cymric, Devon, Exotic, German, Hair, Havana, Laperm, Levkoy, Long, Maine, Manx, Minskin, Nose, Ocicat, Oregon, Pixie, Rex, Savannah, Serengeti, Siberian, Singapura, Snowshoe, Sokoke, Somali, Tabby, Tails, Tonkinese, Ussuri, Vankedisi, Wire, York

Yesterday's Answer: Returned

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 28 by Jeffrey Wechsler, Public Relations Director for U.S. Senator John McCain from Arizona, is available at bookstores coast to coast. To find a store near you, call 1-800-848-2779 or log on to Universal Uclick's online bookstore at www.ucomics.com/books/. To order WONDERWORD 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106. Or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at www.amuzzlements.com. Contains 48 puzzles. 144 pages. 8" x 10 1/2" size.

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CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$27
• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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1 - 20 KW ONAN with
1251 total hours
Weather/sound enclosure
Cummings diesel powered
$5,400.00

1 - 45KW Airman with
7739 hours.
Weather/sound enclosure.
Mitsubishi diesel powered
$4,750.00

John Deere 100 KW
Weather/sound enclosure
208/240/480
Marathon electric
$12,600.00

Coleman 8 HP
4200 ER
Low hours
$300.00

Beall air compressor
5HP and 100 galloon tank
$400.00

Call Mike @ 285-3533

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- Able to communicate well with customers like contractors and residential owners
- Knowledgeable in promoting hardware and construction materials
- Knowledgeable in Counterpoint POS software, Microsoft Office and being a computer literate is a plus factor
- Must have a reliable transportation to and from the workplace, have a valid driver's license
- Must be able to work through an 8-hour shift without interruption
- Must be able to lift and carry construction materials consistently
- Flexibility in handling other related work/tasks when the need arises is desired

DELIVERY TRUCK DRIVER (1)
- Able to handle and carry light to heavy equipments, construction and hardware materials like cement, rebar, gypsum board, lumbers, especially during loading and unloading
- Extensive experience and knowledge in construction and hardware products
- Must have a valid driver's license
- Flexible to handle other job assignments as needed
- Able to operate forklifts, boom trucks, flatbed trucks and other heavy equipments

Interested parties must bring in the ff. requirements:
1. Bio data or resumes
2. One (1) 2x2 size ID picture
3. Certificate of employments from previous employers
4. Other credentials, licenses needed by the job desired
5. Police Clearance

Location: Transamerica Hardware Store, TAC Bldg., Ground Flr., Chalan Pale Arnold, Middle Road or email us: tchumanresource@gmail.com

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Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution: Street party

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WORLD RESORT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

OPEN DATE:	May 04, 2012	POSITION:	Education & Training (level to be decided after interview)
CLOSE DATE:	May 12, 2012	SALARY:	Depend on qualifications

Qualifications:
College graduate. Human Resources/personnel management experience strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE:	May 04, 2012	POSITION:	Guest Relation Officer
CLOSE DATE:	May 12, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Proficiency in Russian language. Must have excellent people skills, willingness to provide service, friendly attitude and ready smile.

OPEN DATE:	May 04, 2012	POSITION:	Cook (Korean Cuisine)
CLOSE DATE:	May 12, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years in culinary experience preferred. Applicants with formal training/education in culinary arts strongly preferred.

OPEN DATE:	May 04, 2012	POSITION:	Server
CLOSE DATE:	May 12, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Experience in food service required. Friendly personality, willingness to serve and a readily smiling individual highly preferred.

OPEN DATE:	May 04, 2012	POSITION:	Maintenance Repair
CLOSE DATE:	May 12, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Minimum two (2) years experience preferred. Formal education/training in construction related field highly preferred.

OPEN DATE:	May 04, 2012	POSITION:	Lifeguard
CLOSE DATE:	May 11, 2012	SALARY:	Minimum Wage

Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent. Obtaining a lifeguard certification is preferred. Must have a friendly and outgoing personality.

For more information, please contact Ms. Miriam K. Seman, Human Resources Team Manager at (670) 234-5900 ext. 274/266/576.

Employment application forms are available at the Saipan World Resort, Security Office, located next to the Wave Jungle Water Park. Applicants must submit the completed form and all the necessary requirements to the Security Office. Incomplete application will not be accepted by the Security Office.

Police: Junior Seau found dead at California home

OCEANSIDE, Calif. (AP)—Junior Seau, a homegrown superstar who was the fist-pumping, emotional leader of the San Diego Chargers for 13 years, was found shot to death at his home Wednesday morning in what police said appeared to be a suicide. He was 43.

Police Chief Frank McCoy said Seau's girlfriend reported finding him unconscious with a gunshot wound to the chest and lifesaving efforts were unsuccessful. A gun was found near him, McCoy said. Police said no suicide note was found and they didn't immediately know who the gun was registered to.

Seau's death in Oceanside, in northern San Diego County, stunned the region he represented with almost reckless abandon. The same intensity that got the star linebacker ejected for fighting in his first exhibition game helped carry the Chargers to their only Super Bowl, following the 1994 season. A ferocious tackler, he'd leap up, pump a fist and kick out a leg after dropping a ball carrier or quarterback.

"It's a sad thing. It's hard to understand," said Bobby Beathard, who as Chargers general manager took Seau out of Southern California with the fifth pick overall in the 1990 draft. "He was really just a great guy. If you drew up a player you'd love to have the opportunity to draft and have on the team and as a teammate, Junior and Rodney (Harrison), they'd be the kind of guys you'd like to have."

Quarterback Stan Humphries recalled that Seau did everything at the same speed, whether it was practicing, lifting weights or harassing John Elway.

"The intensity, the smile, the infectious attitude, it carried over to all the other guys," said Humphries, who was shocked that Seau is now the eighth player from the '94 Super Bowl team to die.

Seau's mother appeared before reporters outside the former player's house, weeping uncontrollably.

"I don't understand ... I'm shocked," Luisa Seau cried out.

Her son gave no indication of a problem when she spoke to him by phone earlier this week, she said.

"He's joking to me, he called me a `homegirl,'" she said.

Seau's death follows the suicide last year of former Chicago Bears player Dave Duerson, who also shot himself in the chest.

In October 2010, Seau survived a 100-foot plunge down a seaside cliff in his SUV, hours after he was arrested for investigation of domestic violence at the Oceanside home he shared with his girlfriend. The woman had told authorities that Seau assaulted her during an argument.

There was no evidence of drugs or alcohol involved in the crash and Seau told authorities he fell asleep while driving. He sustained minor injuries.

"I just can't imagine this, because I've never seen Junior in a down frame of mind," Beathard said. "He was always so upbeat and he would keep people up. He practiced the way he played. He made practice fun. He was a coach's dream. He was an amazing guy as well as a player and a person. This is hard to believe."

Seau's ex-wife, Gina, told the Union-Tribune San Diego that he texted her and each of their three children separate messages: "I love you."

Seau, who played in the NFL for parts of 20 seasons, is the eighth member of San Diego's lone Super Bowl team who has died, all before the age of 45. Lew Bush, Shawn Lee, David Griggs, Rodney Culver, Doug Miller, Curtis Whitley and Chris Mims are the others. Causes of death ranged from heart attacks to a plane crash to a lightning strike.

Seau's also is among a few recent, unexpected deaths of NFL veterans.

Duerson's family has filed a wrongful death suit against the NFL, claiming the league didn't do enough to prevent or treat concussions that severely damaged Duerson's brain before he died in February 2011.

Former Atlanta Falcons safety Ray Easterling, who had joined in a concussion-related lawsuit against the league—one of dozens filed in the last year—died last month at age 62. His wife has said he suffered from depression and dementia after taking years of hits.

Seau is not known to have been a plaintiff in the concussion litigation.

AP

Luisa Seau, mother of former NFL football player Junior Seau, is comforted as she grieves in the driveway of her son's home were he was found dead, Wednesday, May 2, 2012, in Oceanside, Calif.

However, his ex-wife told The Associated Press that Seau sustained concussions during his career.

"Of course he had. He always bounced back and kept on playing," she said. "He's a warrior. That didn't stop him. I don't know what football player hasn't. It's not ballet. It's part of the game."

Gina Seau said she didn't know if the effects of concussions contributed to Seau's death.

"We have no clues whatsoever. We're as stunned and shocked as anyone else. We're horribly saddened. We miss him and we'll always love him."

When Humphries joined the Chargers in a 1992 trade, he said it was obvious Seau was "the person who had the most energy, the most excited, the guy who tried to rally everybody." Humphries said Seau "brought out a lot of youngness" in older players.

He also helped younger players.

"So sad to hear about Jr Seau," tweeted New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees, who was with San Diego from 2001-05. "Junebug. Buddy. The greatest teammate a young guy could ask for. This is a sad day. He will be missed greatly."

Seau called many of those around him "Buddy." He often referred to teammates as "my players."

Seau was voted to a Chargers-record 12 straight Pro Bowls and was an All-Pro six times.

"We all lost a friend today," Chargers President Dean Spanos said in a statement. "This is just such a tragic loss. One of the worst things I could ever imagine."

Seau's greatest game may have been in the 17-13 victory at Pittsburgh in the AFC championship game in January 1995 that sent the Chargers to the Super Bowl. Playing through the pain of a pinched nerve in his neck, he spread out his 16 tackles from the first play to the second-to-last. San Diego was routed 49-26 in the Super Bowl by San Francisco.

Humphries also recalled Seau recovering Elway's fumble to seal a come-from-behind victory in the 1994 opener at Denver.

Seau left the Chargers after the 2002 season when the team unceremoniously told him he was free to pursue a trade. He held a farewell news conference at the restaurant he owned in Mission Valley, and later was traded to Miami.

Seau retired a few times, the first in August 2006, when he said, "I'm not retiring. I am graduating."

Four days later, he signed with the New England Patriots. He was with the Patriots when they lost to the New York Giants in the Super Bowl following the 2007 season, which ended New England's quest for a perfect season.

Last fall, finally retired for good, Seau was inducted into the San Diego Chargers Hall of Fame.

His last season was 2009.

"Twenty years, to be part of this kind of fraternity, to be able to go out and play the game that you love, and all the lessons and the friends and acquaintances which you meet along the way, you can't be in a better arena," Seau said in August.

The Patriots issued a statement expressing grief over Seau's death. "This is a sad day for the entire Patriots organization, our coaches and his many Patriots teammates," the statement said.

More than 100 people gathered outside of Seau's home, only hours after he was found dead. Families showed up with flowers and fans wearing Chargers jerseys waited to get news.

Several hours after Seau was found, his body was loaded onto a medical examiner's van and taken away as fans snapped pictures and raised their hands in the air as if in prayer.

Family friend Priscilla Sanga said about 50 friends and family members gathered in the garage where Seau's body lay on a gurney and they had the opportunity to say goodbye.

"Everybody got to see Junior before they took him away," Sanga said. "He looked so peaceful and cold. It was disbelief. We all touched him and kissed him."

4 players suspended by NFL for Saints' bounties

Hoping to close the book on bounties, the NFL suspended New Orleans Saints defensive captain Jonathan Vilma without pay for all of next season Wednesday and gave shorter bans to three other players for their leading roles in the team's cash-for-hits system that knocked key opponents out of games from 2009-11.

Defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove, now with the Green Bay Packers, was suspended for the first half of the 16-game season; Saints defensive end Will Smith was barred for the opening four games; and linebacker Scott Fujita, now with the Cleveland Browns, will miss the first three games of 2012. Like Vilma, they were suspended without pay, costing each hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The league said its investigation showed "a significant number of players participated" in the bounties—by ponying up cash or collecting it—but noted that "the players disciplined participated at a different and more significant level." Add the losses of Vilma and Smith to the previously announced suspension of head coach Sean Payton for all of 2012, along with shorter penalties for general manager Mickey Loomis and assistant coach Joe Vitt, and NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell came down hard on the Saints ahead of a season that will end with New Orleans hosting the Super Bowl.

As attention to concussions has increased in recent seasons, Goodell has emphasized the importance of player safety via rules enforcement and threats of fines or suspensions. The NFL is facing dozens of lawsuits brought by more than 1,000 former players who say the league didn't do enough to warn them about—or shield them from—the dangers of head injuries.

If Goodell aims to move on from the bounty case, the NFL Players Association might not let him: The suspended players have three days to appeal, and NFLPA head DeMaurice Smith said the union would fight the ruling. Fujita is a member of the NFLPA's executive committee who has spoken out in the past about the need for the league to do a better job of protecting players.

Through his agent, Vilma issued a statement saying he is "shocked and extremely disappointed" by the punishment and denying he was a bounty ringleader.

"I never set out to intentionally hurt any player and never enticed any teammate to intentionally hurt another player. I also never put any money into a bounty pool or helped to create a bounty pool intended to pay out money for injuring other players," Vilma said. He added: "I intend to fight this injustice, to defend my reputation, to stand up for my team and my profession, and to send a clear signal to the Commissioner that the process has failed, to the detriment of me, my teammates, the New Orleans Saints and the game."

Will Smith also denied a role in the bounties.

"I have never in my career, nor as a captain asked others, to intentionally target and hurt specific opposing players. I was in no way involved in establishing ... a bounty program. The accusations made against me are completely and one-hundred percent false, and I plan to appeal," he said via statement sent by his publicist. "Through this entire process, the NFL never notified me of what I was being accused of, nor presented me with any evidence or reasoning for this decision. I am interested in discovering who is making these specific and false accusations, and as well as why a decision was made without speaking with me and giving me the opportunity to review the facts."

Weaver pitches no-hitter, Angels beat Twins

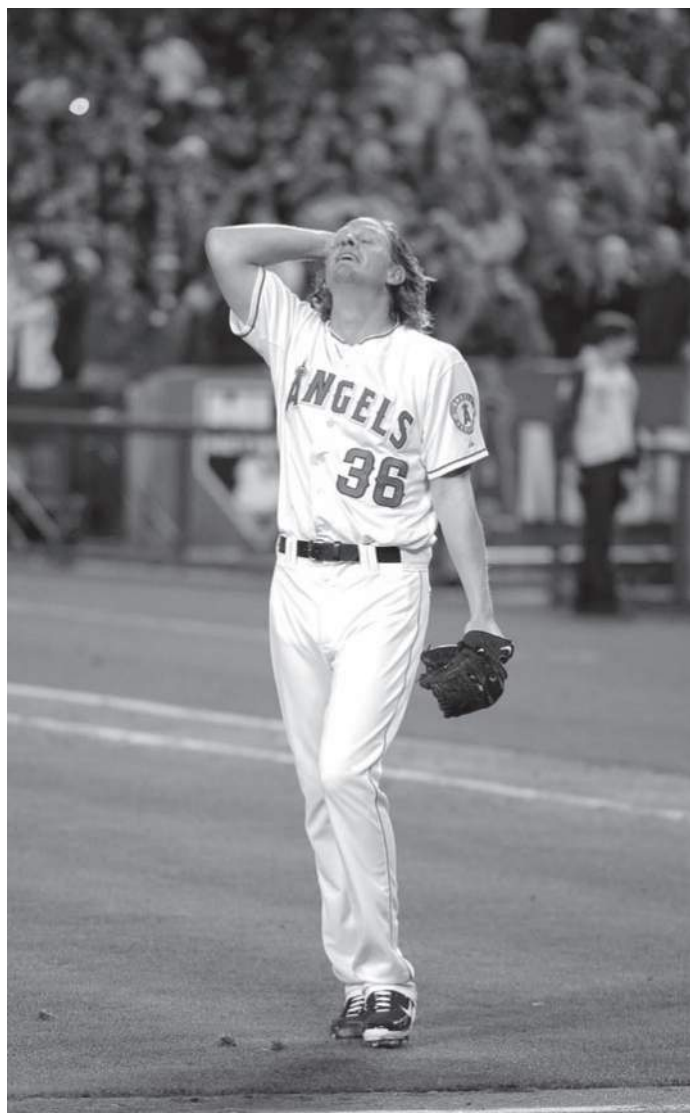
ANAHEIM, California (AP)—Jered Weaver pitched the second no-hitter in the majors in less than two weeks, as Los Angeles routed Minnesota, 9-0, on Wednesday.

Weaver struck out nine and walked only one, with the Twins never coming close to getting a hit against the All-Star.

Weaver (4-0) got his final out when Alexi Casilla hit a long fly ball that was caught at the right-field warning track.

The Angels completed a three-game sweep of a Twins team that has not had a hit for 15 innings.

Minnesota's Liam Hendriks (0-2) took the loss.



AP

Los Angeles Angels starting pitcher Jered Weaver reacts after pitching a a no-hitter in their baseball game against the Minnesota Twins, Wednesday, May 2, 2012, in Anaheim, Calif.

Blue Jays 11, Rangers 5

In Toronto, Toronto's Edwin Encarnacion hit a three-run homer and Kelly Johnson added a two-run drive to power the Blue Jays to an 11-5 win over Texas, giving the Rangers consecutive losses for the first time this season.

Toronto piled on six runs in the fourth inning, chasing Texas starter Matt Harrison (3-2) who allowed eight runs—tying his career worst—in just 3 1-3 innings. He has given up 15 runs over 8 1-3 innings in his past two outings.

Blue Jays starter Ricky Romero (4-0) gave up six hits in eight innings and struck out a season-high six.

Orioles 5, Yankees 0

In New York, Jake Arrieta pitched eight scoreless innings to steer Baltimore past New York.

Arrieta (2-2) tied a career best with nine strikeouts and did not issue a single walk as the Orioles earned a rare series win in New York with a team pitching effort not seen since the days of Jim Palmer and Mike Flanagan.

The Yankees were held to two runs or fewer in three straight home games for the first time since 1978.

New York starter Ivan Nova (3-1) was aiming to match Roger Clemens' team record of 16 straight winning decisions, but took the loss.

Rays 5, Mariners 4

In St. Petersburg, James Shields became the first pitcher in the American League to notch five victories this season, guiding Tampa Bay to a narrow win over Seattle.

Shields (5-0) allowed five hits and struck out 11 over six innings to win his sixth straight decision over two seasons—matching the longest winning streak of his career.

Sean Rodriguez hit a two-run homer for the Rays off Blake Beavan (1-4) in the third and Luke Scott added a solo shot in the sixth which glanced off the centerfielder's glove and put the hosts up 5-4.

Athletics 4, Red Sox 2

In Boston, Brandon McCarthy held Boston to one run over 6 2-3 innings, leading Oakland to victory.

McCarthy (2-3) improved to 8-0 against AL East clubs dating back to 2009.

Daniel Bard (2-3) took the loss, allowing four runs over 5 1/3 innings for the Red Sox, who have lost seven of their past eight in Fenway Park.

Indians 6, White Sox 3

In Chicago, Carlos Santana and Travis Hafner homered to lead Cleveland over Chicago.

Santana hit a three-run shot in the fifth inning that landed well behind the Indians' bullpen beyond right field. Hafner added a two-run shot in the ninth.

Four Cleveland relievers combined for three scoreless innings, extending the bullpen's shutout streak to 15 2-3 innings.

Joe Smith (1-0) picked up the win and Chris Perez pitched the ninth for his eighth save in nine chances.

Chicago reliever Will Ohman (0-1) took the loss.

Royals 3, Tigers 2

In Detroit, Chris Getz's infield single in the ninth inning lifted Kansas City over Detroit.

Tigers pitcher Joaquin Benoit (0-1) gave up a double to Mike Moustakas, who advanced to third on a groundout and scored when Getz hit a grounder that was too deep into the hole for the shortstop to make a strong enough throw to home.

Kansas City's Tim Collins (1-0) got two outs in the bottom of the eighth for the win.

Royals closer Jonathan Broxton gave up a one-out single in the bottom of the ninth but induced a game-ending double play to take the save.

Rockies 8, Dodgers 5

In Denver, Colorado's Jason Giambi launched a three-run homer in the ninth inning, lifting the Rockies to a win over the Los Angeles Dodgers.

The Dodgers had scored twice in the eighth, but Colorado bounced back for three in the bottom half for a 5-3 lead. Los Angeles tied it with two runs in the ninth.

L.A. reliever Jamey Wright (1-1) walked the first two batters he faced in Colorado's ninth, and they were bunted over to second and third base. With first base open, the Dodgers elected not to walk Giambi, who hit Scott Elbert's pitch long over the centerfield fence.

Carlos Gonzalez earlier hit two home runs for the Rockies.

Nationals 5, Diamondbacks 4

In Washington, Ian Desmond hit a game-ending two-out homer to give Washington victory over Arizona.

In the sixth inning, Bryce Harper stumbled as he tried to catch a fly ball but managed to take the catch in his ungloved right hand.

Harper, the No. 1 overall pick in the 2010 draft, had his first multi-hit game with two doubles, including one leading off the ninth inning that set the stage for Desmond's winning shot.

The Nationals snapped their own five-game losing streak and ended the three-game winning streak of the Diamondbacks.

Washington's Henry Rodriguez (1-1) struck out two in the top of the ninth to earn the win. Arizona's J.J. Putz (0-2) blew the save and took the loss.

Astros 8, Mets 1

In Houston, Wandy Rodriguez gave up only one run in seven innings as Houston completed a three-game sweep of New York.

Rodriguez (3-2) lowered his season ERA to 1.64.

Chris Johnson had four hits, homered twice and drove in a career-high six runs for the Astros, who had their first series win since the season-opener.

Johnson's first homer of the season off Chris Schwinden (0-1) was a three-run shot that put Houston up 3-0 in the second inning.

Johnson went deep again in his next at-bat, this one a two-run homer that pushed the lead to 5-0. It was the first career multi-homer game for Johnson and first by an Astro this year.

Cubs 3, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Jeff Samardzija (3-1) gave up only three hits in 7-2/3 innings to lead Chicago over Cincinnati.

Bryan LaHair and Ian Stewart hit solo homers—a major outburst for the power-challenged Cubs—as Chicago opened the rain-shortened series with only their third multihomer game of the season.

They managed only nine home runs in April, the fewest in the majors.

LaHair's shot off Bronson Arroyo (1-1) gave him six for the season.

Padres 5, Brewers 0

In San Diego, Jeff Suppan pitched five scoreless innings to win his first game since 2010, guiding San Diego past Milwaukee.

Suppan (1-0), called up from the minors to start in place of the injured Cory Luebke, did not pitch in the majors last year. The 37-year-old combined with three relievers for the shutout.

The Padres won their first series of the season by taking two of three from Milwaukee.

Brewers starter Yovani Gallardo (1-3) allowed three runs over six innings.

Pettitte agrees he may have misunderstood Clemens

WASHINGTON (AP)—With two short answers, Andy Pettitte called into question the validity of his testimony against Roger Clemens, part of a discouraging day for prosecutors in the retrial of the seven-time Cy Young Award winner.

After stumbling its way to a mistrial of Clemens last year, the government is struggling again in the retrial—to the point that the crux of Pettitte's testimony might be tossed out. First, the exasperated judge criticized the questioning of Pettitte on Wednesday, then he ruled against prosecutors in another matter. Finally he cried out: "You're taking positions that are totally absurd to me."

Pettitte, Clemens' longtime friend and former teammate, was on the stand for a second day in the trial that is to determine whether Clemens lied at a 2008 congressional deposition and hearing when he denied taking steroids and human growth hormone.

During cross-examination, Clemens' lawyers got exactly the answers they wanted.

Might Pettitte have misunderstood when Clemens supposedly acknowledged using human growth hormone to Pettitte in a conversation during the 1999-2000 offseason?

"I could have," Pettitte answered.

Is it fair to say there is a "50-50" chance that Pettitte misunderstood?

"I'd say that's fair," Pettitte replied.

The government tried to salvage their witness, but prosecutor Steven Durham's follow-up questions were lacking—at least in the minds of Clemens' lawyers and, more importantly, U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton. Clemens' lawyers moved to strike Pettitte's testimony about the 1999-2000 conversation as "insufficiently definitive."

The judge seemed to agree, openly wondering why Pettitte wasn't asked for a current, definitive recollection of the conversation. He repeatedly berated Durham, who was also part of the government team last July when prosecutors showed the jury a snippet of inadmissible videotaped evidence, prompting the mistrial.

"I was waiting for you to ask, and you didn't ask that," Walton said.

"My understanding is that (Pettitte's) position is at this time, he is conflicted. ... His testimony now before the jury is `I don't know,'" the judge continued. "I thought that what we would hear is, `Mr. Pettitte, currently, what is your memory of what Mr. Clemens told you back in 1999?'"

In other words, the jury might have concluded that maybe Pettitte did "misremember" the conversation, as Clemens has claimed.

Durham tried to contend that he addressed the matter in a different way. The defense will file a brief in support of its position, and Walton could rule on Pettitte's testimony as early as Thursday.

During his first day on the stand Tuesday, Pettitte recalled the crucial conversation, which took place at Clemens' home during a workout, as: "Roger had mentioned to me that he had taken HGH." Pettitte's testimony—as a reluctant witness with no ulterior motive—is considered vital for the prosecution's case, which otherwise relies heavily on Brian McNamee, a former strength coach for both Pettitte and Clemens who says he injected Clemens with steroids and human growth hormone.

After his testimony, Pettitte signed a baseball in the hallway and left the courthouse in a black SUV without commenting, free to continue his comeback with the New York Yankees.

Inside, the government's woes continued. Its next witness wasn't even allowed to take the stand.

Prosecutors had planned to call Steve Fehr, an attorney for the Major League Baseball players' union. Fehr was supposed to help show, in an indirect manner, that Clemens was aware that former Sen. George Mitchell had tried to contact Clemens when putting together the 2007 Mitchell Report on drug use in baseball. Clemens was named in the report, prompting Congress to call the February 2008 hearing at which Clemens testified.

Walton said he didn't understand what Fehr's testimony would accomplish and that it could amount to "trampling on the attorney-client privilege" because it relies on Fehr's conversations with Clemens' lawyers. Walton said the government should use other evidence to show that Clemens was aware of the Mitchell request.

"Maybe I'm dense," Walton said, his voice rising. "I'm starting to think that maybe I just don't understand the law—because you're taking positions that are totally absurd to me."

The government kept trying to argue its case, but Walton would have none of it.

"You're beating a dead horse, and you're not going to make it come alive," Walton said. "You're not going to win this one."

Nevertheless, Walton said he would allow the government to do some research and file a brief before making a final decision.

Spurs thrash Jazz, take 2-0 series lead

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—The San Antonio Spurs handed Utah its second-heaviest playoff loss, beating the Jazz 114-83 on Wednesday to take a 2-0 lead in their NBA first-round series.

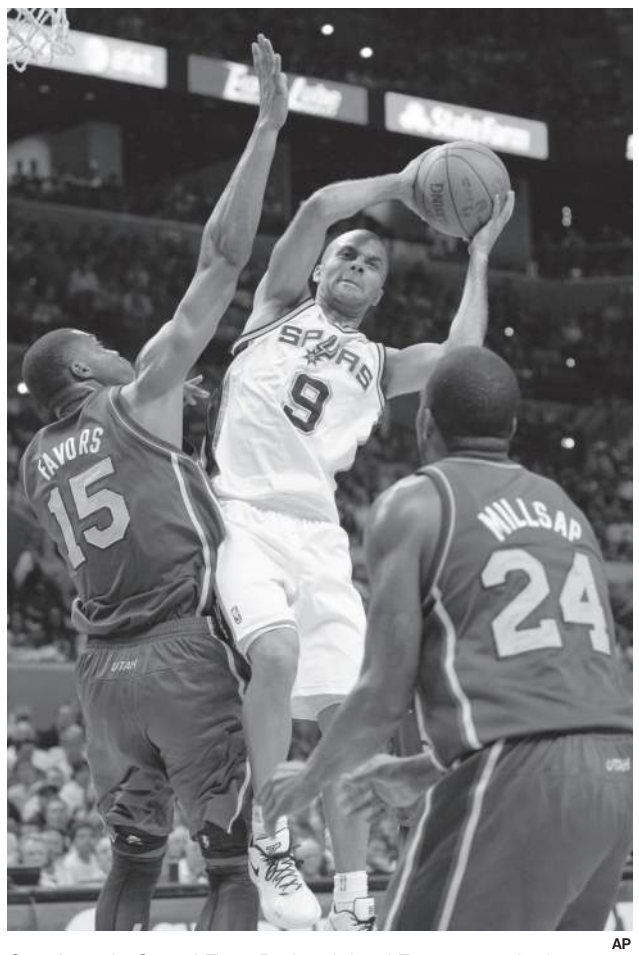
The Spurs cruised on autopilot after a 20-0 run in the second quarter that stunned the Jazz, who had vowed to play better after a one-sided defeat in Game 1. But this loss was even more humiliating.

San Antonio's Tony Parker scored 18 points and was not subject to the hard fouls he was supposed to have coming, while the Utah frontcourt of Al Jefferson and Paul Millsap wasn't any more imposing on offense. Jefferson scored 10 points, and Millsap had nine.

The only bigger embarrassment for the Jazz in the playoffs was a 42-point loss to Chicago in the 1998 NBA Finals. It was the most lopsided postseason win for the Spurs since beating Denver by 28 in 2005. San Antonio's playoff record is a 40-point victory over Denver in 1983.

Tim Duncan finished with 12 points and 13 rebounds for the Spurs.

Game 3 is Saturday in Salt Lake City.



AP

San Antonio Spurs' Tony Parker (9), of France, works between Utah Jazz's Derrick Favors (15) and Paul Millsap (24) during the third quarter of Game 2 of a first-round NBA basketball playoff series, Wednesday, May 2, 2012, in San Antonio.

Pacers 97, Magic 74

In Orlando, Danny Granger had 26 points and nine rebounds to lead Indiana to a comfortable road win and a 2-1 series lead over Orlando.

Roy Hibbert added 18 points and 10 rebounds for the Pacers, who regained home-court advantage with the victory, riding good shooting early and building a 29-point lead in the fourth quarter.

They also dominated scoring underneath thanks to a 46-33 rebounding edge and have outscored the Magic 81-43 in third quarters in the series.

Glen Davis' 22 points topped the Magic, who never led, struggled to get any scoring in the key, and made a series-low five 3-pointers.

Game 4 is Saturday in Orlando.

Grizzlies 105, Clippers 98

In Memphis, O.J. Mayo scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter to guide Memphis to a win over Los Angeles that squared the series 1-1.

The Grizzlies blew a 27-point lead in losing Game 1 on Sunday but got back to their physical style on Wednesday.

Rudy Gay also scored 21 points as Memphis showed off its depth with six players reaching double figures. Mike Conley had 19, Zach Randolph 15, Marreese Speights 11 and Tony Allen 10.

All-Star guard Chris Paul led the Clippers with 29 points. Blake Griffin had 22, and Mo Williams and Nick Young 11 apiece.

Game 3 is Saturday in Los Angeles.

Knicks' Chandler is NBA Defensive Player of Year

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Tyson Chandler, the catalyst for the New York Knicks' defensive improvement, was voted the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year on Wednesday.

Chandler beat out Oklahoma City's Serge Ibaka and three-time champion Dwight Howard of Orlando to become the first Knicks player to win the award.

The Knicks ranked in the NBA's top 11 teams in both opponents' field goal percentage and points allowed. They gave up an average of 94.7 points, an improvement of 11 per game from the 105.7 they surrendered in 2010-11, when they tied for 27th in the league.

"To me it's really a team thing. I know I'm here to accept as an individual but it's definitely a team award," Chandler said at a press conference at the Knicks' training facility.

Chandler received 311 points, including 45 first-place votes, from a panel of 121 sportswriters and broadcasters throughout the US and Canada. Ibaka, the league leader with 3.65 blocked shots per game, had 41 first-place votes and 294 points.

Howard finished third, while Miami's LeBron James and Boston's Kevin Garnett rounded out the top five.

Chandler helped the Dallas Mavericks win their first NBA championship last season and made a quick impact on the Knicks. The 11-year veteran averaged 9.9 rebounds and 1.4 blocked shots, but his biggest change was making his teammates accountable on the defensive end of the floor.

Scoring hadn't been a problem in New York under former coach Mike D'Antoni, but stopping people was.

"I'm just proud of how far we've grown," Chandler said.

The award is sponsored by Kia, which donated a new Sorento CUV on Chandler's behalf to Art for Life Foundation, which focuses on creating programs to help children use art as a way to work through physical, emotional or mental illnesses.

Stoudemire: 'Great chance' of playing in Game 4

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Amare Stoudemire says there's a "great chance" he can play in Game 4 of the Knicks' series against Miami on Sunday despite cutting his left hand on a fire extinguisher case.

Stoudemire is out of Thursday's Game 3 after a surgeon repaired a muscle in the hand Tuesday. The Knicks are calling him doubtful for Game 4, but Stoudemire says he's "not totally sure yet."

Stoudemire, wearing a large wrap around his hand, says he has reason for hope because "I just persevere through a lot of injuries and work hard to recover from injuries."

He says he punched the case out of anger Monday after the Knicks fell behind 2-0 and wasn't trying to injure himself, adding there was only a small piece of glass that he hit.

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This is a rent to own transaction. You do not own the product until all rental payments are made or purchase is made. See store for HUGE selection!
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AGANA 477-RENT
Marine Corps Dr. Reserved Parking in Rear
DEDEDO 637-RENT
Calvo's Center, Behind Johndel's Supermarket
SAIPAN 234-RENT
Middle Road, Next to Subway

'Pacman has long way to go'

By ROY LUARCA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines— There's no shortcut back to top form for Manny Pacquiao.

After watching the eight-division world champion spar with Russians Ruslan Provodnikov and Rustam Nugaev yesterday, chief trainer Freddie Roach said there's still a long way to go for Pacquiao to be ready to defend his WBO welterweight crown against Timothy Bradley on June 9.

"We're not yet at 50 percent, not even close," Roach told Manila-based sportswriters at the Shape Up gym of the Cooyeesan Hotel where Team Pacquiao is billeted here.

"He's not peaking yet, but I'm happy where we are. We have all the time.

Tangling with the burly Provodnikov for four rounds, Pacquiao unleashed solid combinations late in the second and early in the fourth round to the delight of over a hundred spectators which included his wife Jinkee, her twin sister Janet and singer Sitti.

Provodnikov, however, was no pushover, gamely trading punches and also landed some good shots on Pacquiao.

While Provodnikov was tapped to mimic Bradley's attacking style, Nugaev was inserted for two rounds to gauge Pacquiao's speed and sharpen his range.

Nugaev, a rangy 5-foot-10 lightweight who had sparred with Pacquiao in his preparations for Erik Morales and Oscar Larios, also acquitted himself well, trading swift punches and moving around the ring.

"He's smarter now, with more experience and more power," said the 29-year-old Nugaev who holds a 22-win, 6-loss, 1-draw record with 12 knockouts. "The speed is still the same."

AMAZEMENT

From Page 32

It did lose five games, twice to Guam (2-0 and 4-0), once against South Korea (2-0), and were thoroughly beaten by AFC powerhouses Japan (18-0) and North Korea (9-0).

Tan credited NMIFA for consistently holding spring and fall youth leagues in the development and improvement of Commonwealth soccer players.

"These leagues allow our youth players to develop their skills over the past years. Having professional coaches to train the team over the past months is also crucial to take the team to a new level. Commitment from the players and support from the parents are also key factors," he said.

Tan said the next step now is to help local football clubs recruit and develop youth players in each age group and this can only be done by providing them top-flight coaches.

"NMIFA must continue to support every club with coaching clinics so we can develop a big pool of qualified coaches. This allows NMIFA to select the best players to be our national players. Having the opportunity to participate in EAFF (East Asia Football Federation) and AFC competitions are also very important as our players can be exposed to the high-standard of competition. This will inspire them to train harder in order to improve and to be competitive in the international level," he said.

Tan also extended his gratitude to the players, their families, and NMIFA and visiting coaches for all the help they gave to the CNMI U14 National Football Team, which proved crucial in its success in Beijing.

"I would like to thank all the players for their commitment to daily training, to thank all the parents for their support, to thank Chelsea coaches for their professional training, and finally to thank coach Seki (coach Kiyoshi Sekiguchi) for being the head coach in guiding this team in Beijing. I know the performance of our U15 boys last year in Taipei and U14 boys last week in Beijing has inspired many other youth players to be more committed to playing soccer and to train harder in order to become future national players. I also want to thank all the clubs for their efforts in developing our youth players in the past years. NMIFA will continue to do its best to continue the development of soccer in the CNMI and I can say that soccer's future is looking very bright!"

NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas, meanwhile, reminded that the Beijing tournament being a festival, scores and wins and losses were not officially recorded.

Nonetheless, he confirmed that coaches and football associations were taking scores for their own purposes and the CNMI's 2-5-2 win-loss-draw record caught a lot of them by surprise.

"This was our first AFC Festival and the officials and teams were quite surprised with our results. As a debut, I believe we gave a good impression. Our boys played hard throughout the festival and I believe also surprised themselves. They never gave up and maintained a positive attitude," Salas said in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

However, more than their ability in the pitch, the NMIFA official was more impressed by the CNMI team's attitude on and off it.

"The boys also exhibited 'fair play' as evidenced by getting at least seven green cards. The boys had fun while playing but was also a great learning experienced for them. What was also so impressive was the friendship they had with teams like Macau, Mongolia, and DPR Korea (North Korea). Some of our boys came home with jerseys they exchanged," he said.

The CNMI U14 National Football Team was made up of Dakota Hall, Jordan Butcher-Wade, William Hinson II, Joel Fruit, and Kennedy Izuka. Completing the team are Carlson Cruzat, Alan Hinson, Christopher Aninzo, Daniel and John Auther, Julian Pellegrino, Won-Young Kim, Jeremie Tanghal, Gideon Borja, John Masga, Louie Calayag, Emmanuel Aniana, Ryu Tanzawa, Moris Villanueva, Joshua Galarion, James Ermitanio, and Wataru Takima.

MAYWEATHER

From Page 32

This was pure Mayweather, unvarnished, unplugged, and totally uninhibited.

He won't fight Pacquiao unless he's convinced he doesn't use steroids—something, by the way, that only Mayweather has accused the Filipino of doing. And there will be no convincing Mayweather that he's wrong.

"You all think I'm scared, I'm a coward? Well guess what? I'm a rich, scared coward. I'm a rich coward," Mayweather said. "And if that's the case, why the hell would you want to watch me? I don't want to watch no coward. I don't want to watch nobody who's scared and you all know for a fact I'm not scared. You all know that."

I'll take part of the blame for setting Mayweather off. Sitting next to him Tuesday in a VIP check-in room just off the lobby of the MGM Grand hotel, it seemed like a good time to get his thoughts on his main rival.

My mistake.

Instead of an answer, I got a soliloquy. Instead of a yes or no on Pacquiao, I got a disjointed diatribe on all things Mayweather.

He railed about common sense and hat sizes, doing the right thing and protecting his health. He called Bob Arum a professional liar, and suggested I was in the rival promoter's pocket.

He even questioned my patriotism for some odd reason that only his pals seemed to get.

"So, you're an American, right? I'm an American," he told me. "I was in the Olympics. I represent the red, white and blue. You know what the American writers should say? `Well, why's this guy from another country who comes over here and makes money taking it back to his country?

"Once again, I'm feeding American citizens every day. All I ask is give a little blood, give a little urine. That's a crime?"

Actually, the drug testing shouldn't even be an issue. Arum has already said Pacquiao is willing to take blood and urine tests in the weeks and months leading up to a fight with Mayweather.

But Mayweather seems obsessed with the idea Pacquiao is juicing. He seems to truly believe that Pacquiao has some sort of super human powers other fighters don't.

He's not going to change his mind. And, ultimately, that means no Pacquiao fight.

It is true that Pacquiao has grown noticeably since he first began boxing professionally in 1995 at 106 pounds. He's much more muscular and his body has filled out in the 17 years since then.

However, I reminded Mayweather that he boxed in the 1996 Olympics at 125 pounds, and will be fighting at 154 pounds against Cotto.

"Guess what? It took me years to get to here. Years," he said. "Go back and look at the pictures. First, his head is small. Then, all of a sudden, his head just grew? Come on, man. Stop! Stop this man! Come on, man! This (stuff's) so easy. Ray Charles can see this (stuff). Come on. Come on, now! Come on, man. I told you, it's basic common sense. Look at the pictures and tell me this man's head didn't get bigger? This man probably went from a seven and one-fourth to an eight. In a hat, a fitted hat. And you're going to tell me this (stuff) is all natural? Come on, man. Stop this. I'm going up in weight, but I ain't just walking through no damn fighters."

If that wasn't clear enough, Mayweather shifted into third person mode to press his point.

"Writers are saying, `Floyd is scared,'" he said. "No, Floyd cares about his family. Floyd is smart. At the end of the day, Floyd is smart. My health is important. My health is more important than money. They can take all the money and my health is more important. If they say, `Floyd, you can live a healthy life like you is right now, or you got to walk with a limp, and walk all bent over, but you can have a lot of money for the rest of your life,' I'd say, `Take it all back.'"

Guess we should give the guy a break. He's got a fight that might be tougher than most Saturday night, and he'll barely have time to relax afterward when he's due at the Las Vegas jail to begin serving what's expected to be a two-month sentence for domestic abuse.

Before I set him off he had been in a reflective mood, quietly talking about basically raising himself as a child. He spoke about how the gym was his only refuge, and how he used to put pictures from boxing magazines on his wall and stare at them at night, convinced he would one day be rich and famous, too.

He's both, now. But he's not so sure the fame part is worth it anymore.

"I want to live a normal life. I want to go to the mall by myself, but I know I can't," he said. "I do want to take a walk by myself, but I can't. There's a lot I want to do."

It's hard not to like Mayweather in these moments. Actually, I've always liked the Mayweather I've been around, a guy who is generally thoughtful and upbeat. He contributes some of his considerable fortune to those less fortunate, and he does it mostly without asking for credit. His various arrests show another side, yes, but at the age of 35 he seems to finally be outgrowing the foibles of his youth.

I still like him, even after the rant that ended with a dramatic flourish when he leaned over and offered his hand to me.

"Have a good day," he said.

REZNE

From Page 32

the 27.87 Kai Staal set in April 2011, while the 1:07.66 he logged in the 100m breaststroke beat his old mark of 1:08.79 also set in the Rome World Championships.

A familiar face is expected to help Wong in Noumea, as Saipan Swim Club co-founder Bill Sakovich will once again coach his former ward.

"He did fairly well in the conference championships last month on the mainland, helping the University of Hawaii to a second or third place conference finish, and it was the team's first participation in a tougher league. So I hope he does well. I would hope he would final in a couple of his events, but swimmers from New Zealand and Australia will be tough. Either way, it will be a good competition for Rezne," said Sakovich in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

Sakovich, who now lives in Hilo, Hawaii, mentored Wong in his formative years when was still the head coach of the SSC.

Wong won the 2010 Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association male athlete of the year award after striking gold 12 times in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau.

In the past, SSC members Xenavee Pangelinan, the late Audra Winkfield, Jessica Jordan, and David Palacios represented the CNMI in the Oceania Swimming Championships.

The Oceania Swimming Championships are currently held every two years, in even years.

Thee regional championships is organized by the Oceania Swimming Association, and feature teams representing countries and islands from that region. Approximately 16 nations from Oceania will be competing.

The past Championships were held in Noumea (1993), Brisbane, Australia (1997), Christchurch, New Zealand (2000), Noumea (2002), Suva, Fiji (2004), Cairns, Australia (2006), Christchurch (2008), and Apia, Samoa (2010).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	17	8	.680	—
Baltimore	16	9	.640	1
Toronto	14	11	.560	3
New York	13	11	.542	3 1/2
Boston	11	13	.458	5 1/2

Central Division

Cleveland	12	10	.545	—
Chicago	12	12	.500	1
Detroit	12	12	.500	1
Kansas City	7	16	.304	5 1/2
Minnesota	6	18	.250	7

West Division

Texas	17	8	.680	—
Oakland	13	13	.500	4 1/2
Seattle	11	15	.423	6 1/2
Los Angeles	10	15	.400	7

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Washington	15	9	.625	—
Atlanta	15	10	.600	1/2
New York	13	12	.520	2 1/2
Philadelphia	12	13	.480	3 1/2
Miami	10	14	.417	5

Central Division

St. Louis	16	8	.667	—
Cincinnati	11	12	.478	4 1/2
Houston	11	14	.440	5 1/2
Milwaukee	11	14	.440	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	10	14	.417	6
Chicago	9	15	.375	7

West Division

Los Angeles	17	8	.680	—
Arizona	13	12	.520	4
Colorado	12	12	.500	4 1/2
San Francisco	12	12	.500	4 1/2
San Diego	9	17	.346	8 1/2

NBA PLAYOFF LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	2	26	15	69	34.5
Westbrook, OKC	2	23	9	57	28.5
Parker, SAN	1	10	8	28	28.0
Nowitzki, DAL	2	18	20	56	28.0
Durant, OKC	2	15	18	51	25.5
James, MIA	2	18	14	51	25.5
Pierce, BOS	2	17	13	48	24.0
Wade, MIA	2	19	6	44	22.0
Holiday, PHL	2	18	2	42	21.0
Anthony, NYK	2	15	11	41	20.5
Millsap, UTA	1	8	4	20	20.0
Young, LAC	1	6	4	19	19.0
Gay, MEM	1	8	2	19	19.0
Smith, ATL	2	16	6	38	19.0
West, IND	2	13	11	37	18.5
Bynum, LAL	2	17	3	37	18.5
Garnett, BOS	2	13	9	35	17.5
Granger, IND	2	14	4	35	17.5
Harden, OKC	2	6	19	34	17.0
Hayward, UTA	1	2	12	17	17.0

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Diaw, SAN	4	5	.800
Noah, CHI	15	19	.789
Ibaka, OKC	10	14	.714
Young, LAC	6	9	.667
Davis, NYK	9	14	.643
Bynum, LAL	17	27	.630
Conley, MEM	5	8	.625
Brand, PHL	13	21	.619
Brewer, DEN	8	13	.615
Wade, MIA	19	31	.613

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Smith, ATL	2	3	27	30	15.0
Hibbert, IND	2	9	17	26	13.0
Evans, LAC	1	2	11	13	13.0
Garnett, BOS	2	1	23	24	12.0
Davis, ORL	2	13	10	23	11.5
Duncan, SAN	1	4	7	11	11.0
Bynum, LAL	2	5	17	22	11.0
Noah, CHI	2	7	14	21	10.5
Hill, LAL	2	9	11	20	10.0
West, IND	2	5	15	20	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, LAC	1	11	11.0
Rondo, BOS	1	11	11.0
Parker, SAN	1	8	8.0
Conley, MEM	1	8	8.0
Miller, DEN	2	15	7.5
Chalmers, MIA	2	15	7.5
Gasol, LAL	2	13	6.5
James, MIA	2	12	6.0
Kidd, DAL	2	12	6.0
Nelson, ORL	2	12	6.0

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tinian San Jose Bike Race tomorrow

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Some 30-40 bikers from Saipan are expected to challenge Tinian riders in tomorrow's San Jose Fiesta Bike Race.

Tinian's highly anticipated San Jose Fiesta Bike Race starts tomorrow at 5:30am at Suicide Cliff.

The main event race consists of a 65-kilometer course, after which organizers will put on a 200-meter kids class tricycle sprint at 2pm from the Taga House.

The "Kiddie Race" is sponsored by Lollipops of Saipan.

To win the $200 first prize, Saipan bike riders will have to beat the time set for the course by the Bikers Association of Tinian's first place male finisher in the Taxathon Race, Fernando Cacabelot (4:09:13), and top female rider, Rosalina Lazaro (5:23:30).

Besides the $200 cash prize for first to finish male and female, there will be also be a $100 prize for the eldest to finish and $100 for the youngest to finish. Many other prizes have been donated.

Entrance fee to participate is only $5 per person.

A convoy of 30-40 Saipan participants has already confirmed arrangements to travel over on the *Super Emerald* from Charlie Dock.

The boat owner is planning multiple trips to Tinian over the weekend with the first leaving at 1pm on Friday and returning to Saipan later that afternoon at 4pm. Then on Saturday and Sunday the *Super Emerald* will leave Saipan at 9am and return at 4pm.

Fiesta time

Saipan participants should still have plenty of time to enjoy Tinian's annual island fiesta, which will also be taking place over the weekend.

Fiesta events officially begin with the coronation of the Fiesta Royal Court at 7pm Friday night at the Kammer Beach Pavilion.

"It is fun for the whole family…games, nonstop entertainment, and good eats. Most of us who have been there before really enjoy coming back, and even if you haven't yet, it should be on your to-do list of entertaining and fun cultural events in the CNMI," offered past participant and convoy organizer Bruce Bateman.

Notably, the fiesta will be held beachside in San Jose near the commercial port and features a parade as well as various booths set up with exotic food, drinks, Tinian handicrafts, games, and entertainment on the band stand.

Fiesta games include a coconut husking and grinding contest, dragon boat race, greased pig chase, a coconut tree climbing contest, and beach volleyball.

Featured artists this year include Taga Cultural Dancers, Tinian Elementary School Dancers, Guam's Compadres Band, Guam's Island Kai, Kiridos Tinian, Islands Boys from Tinian, Frank Dela Cruz, Steve Mendiola, Jr., and Jay Q. Dela Cruz.

The annual San Jose Novena will be at San Jose Church Sunday morning at 7:30am followed by the procession at 9am and brunch at 10am.

Then the raffle drawing takes place at 3pm where a multitude of prizes will be given away such as a $1,000 cash prize, a $500 cash, a bush cutter, 32" flat screen television, an adult bicycle, a chainsaw, a push mower, a hedge trimmer, a microwave, a wheel barrow, a 32-quart ice chest, and a five-gallon water jug.

Special rates

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is offering special room rates at $77 for *Super Emerald* passengers and Fleming Hotel has rooms available for $66 a night.

Free camping is also being made available at Tachonga Beach with security, showers, and restrooms.

Tinian Dynasty is also holding some Texas Hold'em cash games beginning at 7pm Friday night and on Saturday and Sunday starting at 3pm. Call 328-2285 for more information.

"There is not much time left so get off your seat and get a spot on the boat to Tinian this weekend! Enjoy the fun, good times and excitement or just lay by the pool and digest—don't forget to bring your camera," added Bateman.

Star Marianas Air is also offering $10 seats on re-positioning flights in the night hours, starting from now through Sunday night and into Monday morning. It is still only $20 for all other flights.

Groups can also charter their own flight for only $175 (limit 950 lbs). Please call 433-9997/8 to make reservations for the $10 times or the charter option.

Tinian's big weekend is being organized by the Tinian Mayor's Office, Don Farrell, and the Tinian Department of Land and Natural Resources.

For more information, email amin.jasmeen@yahoo.com or rosalina_lazaro82@yahoo.com or contact Joe Dela Cruz of the Tinian Mayor's Office at 285-4818.

HANMI Charity Golf Classic set for June 2

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Winners of the HANMI 10th Charity Golf Classic Tournament pose for a group photo with Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands chair Nick Nishikawa, left

The Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands is hosting its 11th Charity Golf Classic Tournament on June 2 at the Marianas Country Club starting at 7am.

In addition to supporting a good cause with a full day of golf, the first 144 entrants to sign up will get a chance to win enticing cash and other in-kind prizes.

Proceeds of the event will be contributed to various community charities.

Specifics were not provided, however HANMI has previously supported Crime Stoppers, the Department of Public Safety's Bike Patrol program, PAWS, the skate park in Chinatown, the Victims Assistance Fund that benefited victims in the tragic 2009 shooting incident, and the Saipan Marathon, among others.

HANMI has also allocated $20,000 toward the Mt. Tapochao Development Project, which is being overseen by the Marianas Visitor Authority.

The first place winners of each flight will win a trophy, a $500 cash prize, and a hotel stay at one of HANMI's member hotels.

Second place winners will be presented with $300 and a trophy and $200 and a trophy goes to the third place finishers.

"We encourage all golfers to mark their calendars for this year's 11th HANMI Classic. As in years past, we're looking forward to offering another round of alluring prizes both on the course and during our awards banquet raffle drawing," said tournament chair Takahiro Omori in a recent press release.

The early bird tournament fee is only $100 for payments received by 5pm on May 31. The early bird fee includes green fee and a single admission to the awards banquet.

The entrance fee increases to $120 on Friday, June 1.

For another $20 players can also enter to compete in the closest to the pin, most accurate drive, and longest drive side games.

The event features a Championship, A, B, C, Senior (55 and above), and a Ladies flight.

Championship Flight golfers must hold a handicap between 0 and 5; A Flight golfers must yield a handicap of 6-10; B Flight must range from 11-17, and C Flight players at 18 or higher.

Podium winners of the Ladies Flight will be determined using a double Peoria handicap system.

Saipan resident Jason Yi grossed a 74 last year at COP to win the 12-player Championship Flight.

Other winners included A Flight's J.J. Atalig (80), B Flight's John Cepeda (80), C Flight's Suk Joo Park (83), Senior Flight's Edward Manibusan (76), and Ladies Flight's Leina Kim (net 71.4).

Notables among the 2011's winners included Saipan Southern High School's Park, who is now a sophomore, and Ladies champ Kim who was enjoying a home visit during her college break at Colorado State University in Pueblo.

Registration forms will soon be available at the Marianas Country Club, Coral Ocean Point Resort Club, Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and Hyatt Regency Saipan.

For more information, contact Catherine Rosario Perry at 483-8433.

XGA April Ace tomorrow at COP

The X-clusive Golfer's Association is holding its Ace of the Month for April tomorrow, May 5, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort in Koblerville.

XGA said the show time is set for noon with a 1PM tee off.

The XGA is made up of about 30 members and is currently accepting new members. In contrast to its name, the XGA wants the public to know that anyone can join the club, male or female.

Newcomers are required to pay a $50 annual fee in addition to a club uniform ($25). Membership renewal for returning members is only $40.

On the day of events, players are also required to pay a green fee along with an additional $30 tournament fee that goes to toward the awards banquet, prize money, and incentives for the club.

Contact XGA secrtary J.J. Cabrera at 287-9478 for more information. ***(Walter Cepeda Sutherland)***

RGA May qualifier on Sunday

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding its qualifying tournament for its April Ace on Sunday, May 6, at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi.

Tournament chair Jess Wabol said show time is set for 10:30am with 11:30am tee off. All members are encouraged to take part in the tourney as only eight monthly ace qualifiers are left to be determined.

For more information, contact Wabol at 288-1129, Joe Suares at 483-5506, or Jordan Kosam at 483-4506. Inquiries can also be emailed to cnmirga@gmail.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Police: Junior Seau found dead at California home

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Weaver pitches no-hitter, Angels beat Twins

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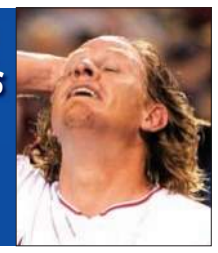

'Amazement, surprise in U14 boys Beijing stint'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

No less than Northern Mariana Islands Football Association president Jerry Tan heaped tons of praise for the CNMI U14 National Football Team's performance in the 2012 Boys Asian Football Confederation U14 Festival in Beijing, China

"I am very pleasantly surprised about the performance and result of our U14 Boys team in Beijing last week. Being the newest and smallest FA (football association) of AFC (Asian Football Confederation), two wins and two draws is an amazing result," said Tan in an email to the *Saipan Tribune*.

For the record, the CNMI U14 team beat Chinese-Taipei, 2-0, and Macau, 1-0. It also forced draws against host China, 1-1, and Mongolia, 2-2.

See AMAZEMENT on Page 30

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI U14 National Football Team players pose with supporters and NMIFA general secretary Ed Salas, right, at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport early this week after arriving from their stint in the 2012 Boys Asian Football Confederation U14 Festival in Beijing, China.

Rezne off to 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rezne Wong, seen here in action for University of Hawaii-Hilo, will represent the CNMI in the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships in Noumea, New Caledonia.

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

University of Hawaii-Manoa swimmer and 2010 NMASA Athlete of the Year Rezne Wong will represent the CNMI in the 2012 Oceania Swimming Championships in Noumea, New Caledonia.

Wong, who will plunge into action from May 28 to June 2 at Noumea's Aquatic Centre, last represented the Commonwealth in the 2011 Summer Universiade in Shenzhen, China.

The 5'11" Marianas High School alumnus reset three CNMI records in his Shenzhen tilt.

He broke the islands' 50m breaststroke mark (31.31), eclipsing his old mark of 31.62 set in the 2009 FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy.

Wong, who is a Marine Biology junior at UH-Manoa, also shattered CNMI records in the 50m butterfly and 100m breaststroke.

The 26.66 he recorded in the 50m butterfly obliterated

See REZNE on Page 30

Crime Stoppers slow-pitch tourney set May 18-20

The NMI Crime Stoppers will host the 2012 Crime Stoppers Slow-Pitch Softball Tournament over the May 18-20 weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Organizers are inviting the public to attend and to cheer on their favorite team.

Each year, the tournament results in a great deal of fun for participants and fans and generates loads of excitement.

Vinnie Sablan, the coordinator of the tournament, said "Each year I have lots of players asking to be included on a team. The community loves this tournament!"

Each team is sponsored by a local business who has generously donated to the Crime Stoppers Program in 2012.

Every player gets a team T-shirt and a weekend of exercise and fun. MarPac will return to defend their title as last year's champion.

Other teams include Duty Free Shopping, Pacific Islands Club, I Love Saipan store, Bridge Capital, Shell/IP&E, AON Insurance, Delta Airlines, IT&E, Docomo Pacific, Megabyte/Marianas Legal Strategy Group, Bank of Guam, and Pacific Amusement.

Crime Stoppers is appreciative of the support of these local businesses. There are many unsolved crimes in the CNMI, including the disappearance last year of the Luhk sisters, the recent brutal murder of Emie Romero, and the highly publicized rape in Garapan.

These criminals remain free to this day, and Crime Stoppers is committed to continuing to work with law enforcement to bring all criminals to justice. One solid tip from the community to the Crime Stoppers hotline may be enough to allow DPS to solve these horrific crimes. This tournament allows the local program to function for an entire year with its entirely volunteer board. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The 2012 Crime Stoppers Slow-pitch Softball Tournament is set this weekend at the Capital Hill Ballfield. File photo above shows 2009 champion Team The Set/Natara pose in a group photo with organizers and board of directors of the CNMI Crime Stoppers.

Mayweather rant means no Pacquiao fight

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Sorry, boxing fans. This is news you don't want to hear.

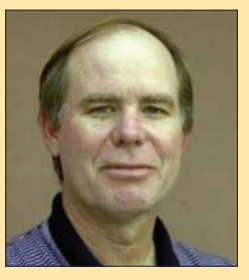
Enjoy Floyd Mayweather Jr. on Saturday night against Miguel Cotto, if you wish. But understand this: Despite the fervent hope of almost everyone in boxing, Mayweather will not be fighting Manny Pacquiao.

Not later this year. Not ever.

If I wasn't sure of it before, I'm sure of it now. Hard not to be after watching Mayweather as he went into a bizarre rant for the benefit of myself, a few other writers, and his ever present band of sycophants.

This wasn't for HBO's "24/7" cameras, though it was better than anything on the most recent episodes. It had nothing to do with getting people to pony up $69.95 to watch the Cotto fight in their living rooms.

See MAYWEATHER on Page 30

By TIM DAHLBERG
AP Sports Columnist

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